



Fort Sam Houston

News Leader[®]



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Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

January 24, 2002

Briefs

Change of Command for HHC, BAMC Bde., Jan. 25

A change of command ceremony will be held Jan. 25, in front of Bldg. 3642, Brooke Army Medical Center Brigade Headquarters. Outgoing commander is Capt. John Belew. Incoming commander is Capt. Michelle Hidalgo. The public is invited.

ID Card Office closed, Jan. 28, 29, 30

The ID Card Office, located in the Gen. Vogel Processing Center, Bldg. 367 and the office located in Bldg. 1290, Student Personnel Processing, will be closed on Jan. 28, 29, and 30. Customers may request service at the Lackland Air Force Base office, Bldg. 5616, phone number 671-4177. Service will resume on Jan. 31.

AMEDD NCO Academy Change of Responsibility, Jan. 30

A Change of Responsibility ceremony will be held Jan. 30 at 7:45 a.m. at MacArthur Field. Outgoing commandant is Command Sgt. Maj. Zulma Santiago. Incoming commandant is Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mathsen.

Consolidated retirement ceremony, Jan. 31

A consolidated end of month retirement ceremony will be held Jan. 31, 7:45 a.m. at MacArthur Field, corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Roads. The public is invited.



Photo by Mike Dulevitz

Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Representative Charles Gonzalez (D-Texas) talk to the media at a press conference during their visit to Brooke Army Medical Center.

Senator Lieberman explores legislative impact on BAMC, military health care

By Arcy Longoria
Special to the News Leader

Brooke Army Medical Center hosted Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) member of the Senate Armed Services Committee along with Representative Charles Gonzalez (D-Texas) and Jeff Mendleson, chief of staff for Congressman Ciro Rodriguez last Thursday. The focus of their visit was to find out how legislation that passed this session in Congress has affected military health care, and what other legislative issues impacted on the way BAMC is currently doing business in military health care.

"When it comes to the health care of military personnel, we are their employers. They are serving us, the American people. We have a fundamental obligation to provide them with the best possible health care that we can and I'm encouraged, from today's

visit to feel that we've gone a long way toward doing that," Lieberman said.

BAMC military health care providers and their spouses had the opportunity to meet with the congressional visitors where they voiced their appreciation for their visit and for taking the time to listen to what they had to say about health care. It was a very open session for both the officer and enlisted groups of health care providers and their spouses.

"The people in uniform that we saw today along with their spouses feel that the quality of health care they are given is good. They are happy with it. ... I think we've got to figure out a way to improve some of the non-health care benefits that we give to some of the spouses. When an individual makes a judgement or a decision to serve their country in the military, that is a decision that determines not only their life,

but the lives of their spouses and children. They're a unit," the senator observed.

All the comments were positive in how their families are being taken care of, being able to get their prescriptions without much delay and getting same-day appointments. There were no senior officers at either session to make it very comfortable for both groups to speak. The staff was very happy to be able to represent their peers and be given this opportunity. They were also very thankful to the congressional staffers visiting BAMC.

"You've got to come away from here inspired and grateful that service means a lot to the people who are wearing a uniform," he said.

There was a brief media opportunity at the end of the visit to address questions from the media on military health care issues.

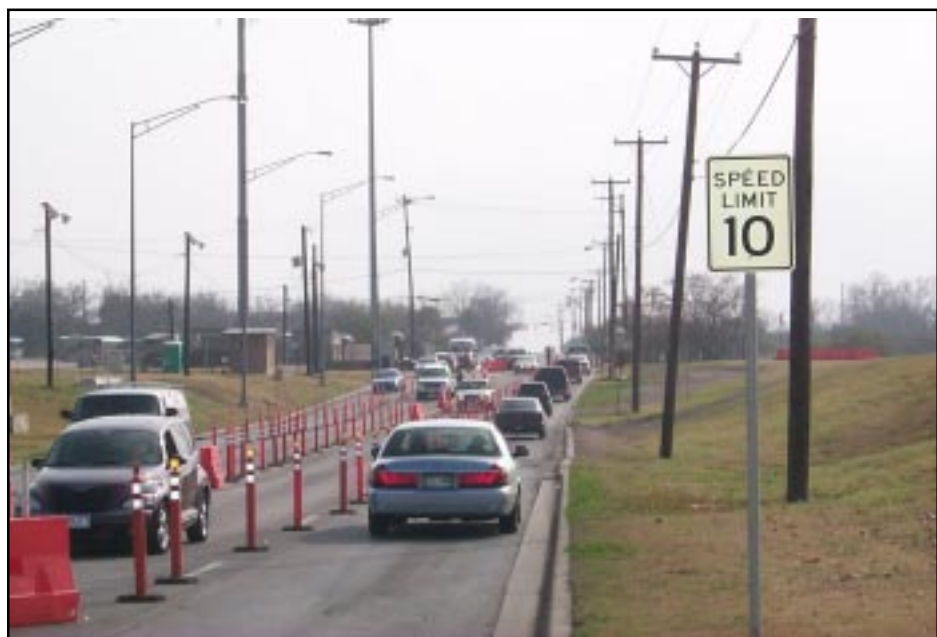


Photo by Esther Garcia

Caution! 10 miles per hour!

Motorists are advised that the posted speed limit at all gates when entering and departing the installation is 10 mph. This speed limit is designated for the safety of the military police conducting security checks at each gate. Motorists entering and departing the installation are required to observe posted speed limit signs.

DoD uses more 'tools' to shape civilian work force

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense is getting "more tools in its toolkit" to properly shape an aging civilian work force, a senior, personnel official said.

Roughly 18,000 employees retired in 2001, and officials estimate 20,000 will take the plunge this year, said Jack Schrader, deputy, assistant secretary of defense for civilian personnel policy. He said as many as 24,000 people per year may retire by 2007. Retirements account for roughly half of the personnel attrition DoD deals with in a given year.

"We need to try to shape those losses to make sure that critical employees stay around long enough to transition the knowledge that they have to newer employees that are coming up through the

ranks," Schrader said.

He said it's also critical that the department hires the right people with the right skills into the right jobs. "The focus needs to be on how to manage the attrition and then managing the filling of those vacancies, to make sure we don't do it in a nonfocused way," Schrader said.

To do this, DoD is employing several strategies to boost recruitment.

Statutory changes in recent years allow retired military members to take civil service jobs without having their federal civilian salary being offset for their military retirement pay. Schrader said officials hope this will make civil service a more attractive option for military retirees.

"Retired military are at an age where they have many productive years ahead of

See DoD on Page 3

Creator of 91W takes lead as readiness program chief

By Cleo Brennan
Special to the News Leader

Maj. (Dr.) Robert DeLorenzo undertook a monumental task when he requested an assignment that would allow him to make an impact on Army medics. “I never dreamed it would reach such a scale,” DeLorenzo said. “The creation of 91W is bigger than just changing the medic’s MOS (Military Occupational Speciality). It’s reshaping the AMEDD and the whole Army for new missions of the 21st Century.”

As designer and architect of the new medic while assigned to the AMEDD Center and School, DeLorenzo established the 91W Healthcare Specialist, with training, qualifications, performance and mission consistent with the objective force. For his achievement, DeLorenzo received the Surgeon General’s Physician Recognition Award and his second Meritorious Service Medal for his dramatic impact on the future of Army medicine.

Due to his expertise in emergency medicine, he led the team which analyzed and determined critical medic tasks, designed a training curriculum and developed a transition training program for existing

medics and practical nurses (91B and 91C). As 91Bs and 91Cs all become 91W, the practical nurse’s advanced skills will establish a career progression for the entry level medic.

A cornerstone of this program will be that all graduates are required to pass the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B) certification examination. While many of the medics trained in the past voluntarily achieved EMT-B certification, the universal standard will insure every medic is equipped to meet the more comprehensive and more immediate demands far forward of the changing combat doctrine.

In addition, there will be increased field training and, for the first time, a clinical rotation integrated into the training.

“I’m tremendously honored and deeply grateful to have the opportunity to do exactly what I wanted to do in the Army—train soldiers,” DeLorenzo added.

Since his assignment to BAMC, DeLorenzo has distinguished himself as well as associate director, San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (SAUSHEC) Emergency Medicine



Official U.S. Army photo
Maj. (Dr.) Robert DeLorenzo has been selected as new residency program chief for the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (SAUSHEC) Emergency Medicine Residency Program

Residency Program and was recently selected as the new residency program chief.

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Coalition opens new hospital in Afghanistan

For many of the people of Mazar e-Sharif, routine medical care may be nothing more than a fleeting memory - a memory of a time before the Taliban.

For others in this war-ravaged city, receiving care for a major emergency was always nearly impossible; few doctors were available, the trek with the sick was too long a journey to make and the benefit of care was not worth the effort. Families had to make difficult and emotional decisions, often with little time to spare.

The largest, most functional hospital ever seen in Afghanistan opened its doors in Mazar-e-Sharif at a ceremony Jan. 8.

Among the distinguished visitors in attendance were Maj. Gen. F.L. Hagenbeck, the 10th Mountain Division commander and commander of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (Forward), Deputy Defense Minister General Abdul Rashid Dostam, Deputy Commander of the Northern Zone General Ustad Atta Muhammed and Jordanian Hospital Commander Brig. Gen. Aziz.

The mission to begin handling the routine and emergency care the Afghans so desperately needed commenced the next day.

The planning for a fully functioning hospital in Mazar e-Sharif began long before the bombing ended. A U.S. Special Forces operational detachment spent a month working with the Jordanian Special Forces in order to provide training needed to complete the security mission at the hospital. The coalition, which included soldiers from the 10th Mountain, other U.S. assets and Jordanian personnel, planned, organized and built the tent facility.

“In 10 days, we built a hospital,” said Dr. Ziad F. Al-Shraideh, an anesthesiologist who works at the facility. Al-Shraideh said the diligent efforts of the forces on the ground in constructing the facility enabled them to complete the construction four days ahead of schedule.

Those 10 days of hard work getting the facility set up translates into a potential lifetime of expert medical care for the people of this region - a situation many Afghans never before experienced.

“Medical supplies and equipment are far superior (here) to traditional Afghan hospitals,” said Al-Shraideh. “Also, by bringing together everything in one place it is superior, as Afghan hospitals tend to be limited in what they offer.”

The hospital may not appear to be a state-of-the art facility, but not so, said Al-Shraideh. The hospital has two operating rooms and is equipped and staffed to perform emergency, general and elective surgeries.

The hospital is also able to perform such advance procedures as neurosurgery, plastic surgery, and vascular surgery.

In addition to the 15 surgeons the hospital has assigned to it, the hospital

has two anesthesiologists and has experts in more than 20 different specialties, including pediatrics, psychiatry, dermatology, radiology, and family practice.

Afghan women will now have medical treatment that was difficult to get before with the new hospital. The hospital has an obstetrics and gynecology department with capabilities to deliver children. They are also equipped with incubators to help prematurely born children fight for a chance at life. Most Afghan women see a general practice doctor for their health concerns, if they are able to see one at all, according to Al-Shraideh.

All together, 27 doctors are assigned to the hospital. It has a large clinic tent, a pharmacy tent, six ward tents, a triage tent and a radiology tent.

The Jordanian military has taken the reigns on the staffing, operations and

security of the hospital, with logistical support provided by the U.S. military.

“We will provide the Jordanian military with the expendable medical supply requirements,” said Maj. Paul Davis, the liaison officer and medical logistics planner from U.S. Army Medical Material Center, Europe, who is currently operating in the theater. He said his command could supply more than 7,500 different medical items to the hospital through an established supply system between the two nations.

“We will be able to provide responsive logistics” to the 200 Jordanians running the hospital, said Davis.

While the bombing may be drawing to a close in this first campaign of the war on terrorism, officials said the campaign to rebuild a fledgling nation is just beginning — one piece at a time.

(Editor’s note: Article provided by public affairs personnel in the Afghanistan theater of operations.)



Medals awarded

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki awards Capt. Jason L. Amerine of the 5th Special Forces Group a Bronze Star with V Device for valor during combat in Afghanistan. Nineteen SF troops received medals Jan. 15 at Fort Campbell, Ky.

‘American Taliban’ faces charges in federal court

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

John Walker Lindh, the so-called American Taliban member who was captured after a November prison uprising in Afghanistan, has been charged in federal court.

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the charges in a press conference January 15.

Walker, who goes by his mother’s last name, was charged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The charges included conspiracy to kill nationals of the United States of America overseas; providing material support and resources to designated foreign terrorist organizations; and engaging in prohibited transactions with the Taliban.

Walker could face life in prison if

convicted of all charges, Ashcroft said.

“The United States does not casually or capriciously charge one of its own citizens with providing support to terrorists,” Ashcroft said. He said the events of Sept. 11 compelled him to do so today.

Ashcroft said the charges are based on voluntary statements Walker made after being captured. The complaint against Walker alleges he knowingly and purposely allied himself with terrorist organizations.

“Walker chose to embrace fanatics, and his allegiance to those fanatics and terrorists never faltered, not even with the knowledge that they had murdered thousands of his countrymen,” Ashcroft said.

The attorney general said Walker is in the process of being transferred

from U.S. military control to the FBI. He offered no further details.

Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem said Jan. 14 that Walker was still being held aboard the

USS Bataan.

Walker was captured after a deadly late-November prison uprising at Mazar-e Sharif, in which CIA officer Johnny “Mike” Spann was killed.

New strategies to boost civilian workforce

From DoD on Page 1

them,” he said. “They have skills and are trained in a lot of our mission-critical areas.”

Civil service human-resource managers have typically relied on a “military model” for recruitment. Schrader said this meant hiring people for entry-level jobs and then “growing” them into higher-level positions within their departments. DoD is now looking to attract individuals in middle- or upper-level private sector jobs.

“Where people have skills that perhaps aren’t critical skills any longer, we’re putting resources toward training and retraining them into the skill areas we need,” he said.

“A lot of times the skills we need are the same skills the private sector is

after also,” he said. To be a more competitive recruiter, DoD has added perks new employees can qualify for, Schrader said. These include paying off student loans up to \$40,000, paying recruitment bonuses up to 25 percent of the first year’s salary, and paying for professional credentials.

Government employment traditionally has been considered more stable than private-sector employment. Schrader said this stability attracts a lot of prospective employees.

He also said many young people are attracted by the prospect of serving their country. “We need to remind people that service to the nation is a good cause,” he said. “With recent events, I think that that probably is even more of a selling point.”

USO free income tax service available

USO offers free income tax preparation for active duty military members every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through March 10. The forms will be prepared by IRS trained volunteers. No state income tax or business returns will be prepared. For information or appointment, call 227-9373, Wednesday through Saturday.

‘Black Hawk Down’ reflects Army values

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

The values of valor and self-sacrifice demonstrated by actors playing Delta Force troopers and Army rangers in “Black Hawk Down” are the same values being shown by soldiers around the world today, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White said.

White made those remarks at a special screening of the movie for military uniformed and civilian leaders in downtown Washington, D.C., Jan. 15.

“Black Hawk Down,” based upon a book with the same name by Mark Bowden, dramatizes a military operation that went wrong in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1993 and resulted in the deaths of 18 U.S. servicemen and more than 500 Somalis. It opened in theaters Jan. 18.

“Who would have believed a year after the script was approved for production that this country would be at war,” White said. “The movie has a tagline, ‘Leave no man behind,’ which is extremely important today. The Army could easily use that tagline because it reflects the values of valor and self-sacrifice that we have been seeing in our soldiers these past four months as we combat terrorists and terrorism. In fact, those values have been an integral part of the Army during the entire 226 years of its existence.”

Producer and director Ridley Scott told screening attendees that he and co-producer Jerry Bruckheimer decided to make the movie to set the record straight. He said there was an apparent public misperception that the military messed up in Somalia, when in fact it was heroic in a very unstable part of the world. “We thought those soldiers should be remembered for their courage,” he said.

Actor William Fichtner, who played

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Sanderson in the film, said he has always appreciated what the military does for the country, but after working on the film, that appreciation has significantly increased.

“Before reading the script, all I knew about what happened in Somalia was from CNN sound bites — that we had gone in there to help feed the starving people there and then something went wrong so we left,” Fichtner said. “In preparing for my role, I made a number of real friends in the Army down in Fort Bragg, N.C., not just acquaintances but friends. I am proud of what my new friends do on a daily basis in defending this country.”

Following the film, Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray Lackey, the Army Reserve command sergeant major said he hoped employers and others who may not understand what mobilizing reservists are about go see the movie. “There is no doubt in my mind that they will come away with a better appreciation of the sacrifices our soldiers make on daily basis,” he said.

For Staff Sgt. Mark Erwin, public affairs NCO for 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer, Va., the movie was the most intense he had ever seen.

“I don’t know how it could get more closer to real than was shown,” Erwin said. “I never related more emotionally with what was happening on the screen than I did with this movie. It showed soldiers doing their job and taking care of one another, despite the odds against them.”

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley said the gruesome combat scenes depicted in the movie were so realistic that it brought back vivid memories of the carnage he witnessed when his armor platoon was



A scene from the movie Blackhawk Down.

overrun in Vietnam.

First Sgt. Bruce Moore, a ranger now and during the Somalia operation, was one of several Somalia veterans who were brought to Washington to view the special screening. He rated the film as being 90- to 95-percent accurate with what he witnessed as a staff sergeant during the 1993 operation.

“What I particularly liked was the way the movie portrayed how young most soldiers are who fight our country’s battles,” Moore said. “Most of the soldiers I served with then, and those in my company today, are 18 or 19 years old. As shown in the movie, they are not out trying to be heroes, but end up doing some pretty heroic stuff.”

Lt. Col. Walt Pjetraj, an Army Special Forces officer assigned to the Joint Staff Operations section at the Pentagon, however, believed the movie only scratched the surface of what the soldiers endured in Somalia.

“You have to remember that we just sat through a little more than two hours of a depiction of what happened, when those soldiers were in a very hairy situation for more than 18 hours,” Pjetraj said. “We watched it in Class A uniforms, while they were in it hot and sweaty in Battle Dress Uniforms — locked and loaded. After the movie was over, here we are relaxing with adult beverages; when it was over for them, they buried their dead.”

The eyes have it, new battlefield armor

American Forces Press Service

The new, streamlined Military Eye Protection System developed at the Army Soldier Systems Center here is about to replace a grab bag of current protective eyewear.

The Army and Marine Corps have used a combination of the Ballistic/Laser Protective Spectacles; Special Protective Eyewear, Cylindrical System; and Sun, Wind and Dust Goggles since the mid-1990s to shield troops from eye injury.

The new gear increases protection and works with half the number of interchangeable lenses needed by today’s lineup. Soon, troops will have a system in sleek goggles or spectacles and a one set of interchangeable lenses that can fit both.

“Soldier acceptability is tough,” said Michelle Markey, project officer at Product Manager-Soldier Equipment. “It is difficult to get soldiers to wear eye protection, especially those who are not used to wearing glasses. They are more likely to wear their eye protection if it is something they look good in, and I think these goggles and spectacles will be well-accepted.”

Of course, there’s more than good looks and fashion at stake. An estimated 10 percent of all battlefield injuries are to the eye, and that rate has climbed steadily since the Civil War, according to project engineer Harold Moody. Explosive fragments, tree branches, blowing sand and rocks, and lasers present the major

battlefield hazards to the eyes.

“These injuries are also easy to protect against using polycarbonate (plastic),” Markey said. “Our eye protection is designed to stop a .15 caliber, 5.7 grain fragment simulating a projectile traveling at 640-660 feet per second.”

The new protection system carries over the lightweight, tough polycarbonate used in current protective eyewear that passed tests for ballistic resistance. But now the new spectacles expand wearers’ peripheral protection. Like SPECS and BLPS, they also meet the American National Standards Institute requirements for occupational eye and face protection.

Another military requirement is protection from laser range finders and target designators.

BLPS, SPECS and SWDG each use four lenses for four purposes: clear, sunglass, three-line laser protection and two-line laser protection. When lasers are not a hazard, soldiers can use the clear lens to protect against ballistic and ultraviolet rays day or night, or use a sunglass lens during the day that adds sun glare protection.

When lasers are a danger, soldiers currently switch to a green lens that blocks two wavelengths for use in dim light or a dark lens that shields three wavelengths for use in daylight. Special coloring and coatings absorb the laser to eliminate or minimize injuries.

“The problem with (the daytime lens)



Army Photo

MEPS goggles easily tighten and loosen for “fall-to-the-chest” capability, a feature important to a gunner who’s trying to use the internal sights in his tank or infantry vehicle.

is that it’s dye-based and very dark. It is not suitable for use at night, which is why there is a separate two-wavelength lens, which has better transmission properties for nighttime use,” Markey said. “The third wavelength wouldn’t likely be used at night anyway, because it would be visible.”

The new system uses two types of laser-reflective technology sandwiched between two layers of polycarbonate for durability, and it covers a wider band of near-infrared wavelength energy than the current systems. Separate day and night lenses are gone.

“We’re looking at blocking broad bands of laser while minimizing the impact on color vision,” Markey said.

“This is critical in order to maintain the soldiers’ ability to read maps and use devices such as image intensifiers. We also wanted better light transmission than the current systems and ultimately would like to have tunable laser protection that adjusts to the hazard.” Other improvements are in fit, comfort and logistical efficiency.

Ballistic/Laser Protective Spectacles were designed for prescription eyeglass wearers. They were one-size-fits-all and hard to fit users properly. Special Protective Eyewear, Cylindrical System, come in two sizes for better fit, but they can be worn only by those with normal vision.

See **Eyes** on Page 5

The eyes have it

From **Eyes** on Page 4

Military-issued eyeglasses fit inside Sun, Wind and Dust Goggles, but often with just enough room.

The new system can be worn by anyone and comes in two spectacle sizes for an improved fit while retaining just one size of goggles. A prescription lens carrier snaps into the goggles and spectacles frames if needed.

Clear, sunglass and laser lenses, all with ballistic protection, are interchangeable between the large spectacles and goggles for simpler supply and storage. Spectacles or goggles, along with two extra lenses, are stored and carried in a rigid foam case with a green cloth cover.

The Military Eye Protection System was tested with more than 26 pieces of equipment to ensure optical and structural compatibility, Moody said.

Markey demonstrated how easily the goggles tighten and loosen for fall-to-the-chest capability, a feature important to a gunner looking through his tank or infantry vehicle's internal sights. Currently used goggles have a simple elastic strap and are stowed on the helmet, which interferes with the proper use of the tank sights, said Moody.

Goggles are undergoing user evaluation at the Marine Corps Air- Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif., and both goggle and spectacle prototypes are being evaluated at Fort Campbell, Ky. Fielding is expected to begin in 2005.

For more information about the Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command or the Soldier Systems Center (Natick), visit the command's Web site at <http://www.sbccom.army.mil>.

Source: Soldier and Biological Chemical Command news release.



Soldiers talk about Army life

(Above) Students from Kirby Junior High School listen attentively to Staff Sgt. Ronald Holmes and Staff Sgt. Dawn Brooks, Small Group Leader, BNOC Course, NCO Academy, as they talk about Army life. Students asked Holmes and Brooks if they liked the Army, what they did, the hours they worked, and how the soldiers keep in shape.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Ronald Holmes, Small Group Leader, BNOC Course, NCO Academy, speaks to 6th and 7th graders recently at Kirby Junior High School. Students had 20 prepared questions and were instructed to write down all the answers. At the end of the session, Holmes and his assistant, Staff Sgt. Dawn Brooks were asked to autograph their papers.



Courtesy photos

58-year-old Cardio Thoracic surgeon graduates from reserve component basic officer course

By Edward Rivera
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Retiring after 30 years as a distinguished cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. William C. DeVries decided to finally do something he had always wanted to do – join the Army. On January 18, DeVries, 58-years old, became one of the oldest officers to graduate from the Army Medical Department's Basic Officer Course.

"This country has given me so much and now it was time for me to give back," said DeVries, who was commissioned into the Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel December 31, 2001. "You have two years to attend the officer basic course after your commissioning, I wanted to go as soon as possible. I wanted to learn all I could about the Army and become a good soldier."

Born in Brooklyn, New York on December 19, 1943, DeVries was the son of a Navy physician and a nurse. He had always been interested in serving in the Armed Forces but his schooling and subsequent positions did not allow for his desire. DeVries received his Bachelor of Science in Molecular and Genetic Biology from the University of Utah in 1966 and graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine in 1970. DeVries was awarded the Wintrobe Award for being the outstanding graduate medical student in his class.



Photo by Edward Rivera
(Dr.) Lt. Col. William C. DeVries at Blesse Auditorium before graduating from the U.S. Army Basic Officer Course Reserve Component on January 18.

DeVries moved to Durham, N.C. where he was a cardio thoracic surgery resident at Duke University until 1979 where he was both the chief resident and teaching scholar. After completing his residency DeVries returned to the University of Utah School of Medicine to work as a professor. There he was instrumental in the creation and operation of the Jarvik-7 artificial heart. On December 1, 1982, DeVries implanted the first permanent total artificial heart in Seattle, Wash.

He moved to Louisville, Ky. and continued his research and development

of the Jarvik-7. From 1982 through 1987 he implanted the artificial heart in four patients, who collectively lived more than 1,300 days.

According to DeVries, having worked with and being in charge of large medical teams, he has acquired many of the leadership skills employed by Army officers. "I have always considered myself a good team leader, but I have gained a better understanding and appreciation of camaraderie. It is incredible how soldiers pull together as a team to accomplish their missions."

In 1988 DeVries returned to traditional cardio vascular surgery until his retirement in 1999. He currently serves as the Academic coordinator for the Cardio Thoracic Surgery Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington D.C.

"After being commissioned into the Army Reserves and seeing the Army from within, I now have a greater understanding of military doctors and am able to better communicate with both military and civilian medical personnel," said DeVries.

When DeVries decided to give back to his country by joining the Army, he didn't think twice about his age. "I've always been very active and keep in good shape, I'm sure there were some skeptics, but I wasn't worried about the physical aspects of the training here," said DeVries.

According to Maj. Joy K. Reams, U.S. Army Reserve Advisor, DeVries came to the course prepared and with experience coupled with his positive can-do attitude made him a focal point for the entire class. "Although a lieutenant colonel, he was very approachable and was able to be a leader, a student and a classmate."

DeVries was very impressed with the training he has received here at Fort Sam Houston. He was also greatly impressed by the attention to safety while he was training at Camp Bullis. "The combat

See *Surgeon* on Page 7

Tax Assistance Center gears up for busy tax season

The Fort Sam Houston VITA Tax Assistance Center will open for business Jan. 29 at 9 a.m. through April 15. Phone number is 295-1040.

The following services and hours of operations will be available:
Main Tax Assistance Center, Bldg. 258, located at the corner of Wilson and Liscum streets. Each day, we can only see a limited number of clients. Therefore patrons must sign-in for morning or afternoon session accordingly.

Main Tax Assistance Center Hours of operation

Day Time
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

For morning sessions, sign-in Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. or Saturday at 10 a.m.
For afternoon session, sign-in Monday through Friday at 2 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. or Sunday at noon.
For your convenience the following satellite location will be available:

**Center Brigade Headquarters
Bldg. 902**
Monday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sign-in, Monday & Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

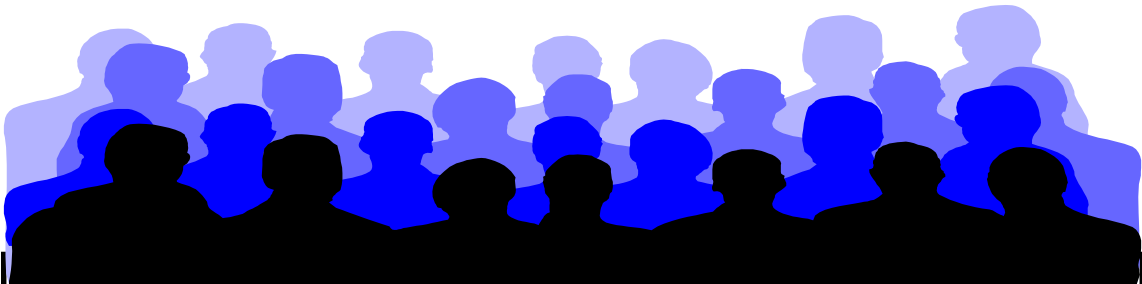
**Brooke Army Medical Center
Rooms 513-14 and 513-15**
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sign-in Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 pm.



The following is an overview of the services provided by the Tax Center. In order to reduce waiting times, you must bring all supporting documents and information or we will not be able to assist you. We offer free tax preparation and electronic filing to the following:

- Active Duty Personnel and their family members
- Retirees and their family members
- Members of the Reserve and National Guard currently on active duty orders in excess of 29 days
- All must have a valid military ID Card and/or Orders

Appointments will be available for special circumstances only, on a case by case basis.
Active Duty soldiers in uniform will have priority, however the physical fitness uniform is not authorized in the facility.
Patrons must have a social security number for all dependents claimed and should provide social security card(s) if possible to insure accuracy.
Patrons must have a Form W-2 for each and every employer. If you haven't received one, please see your personnel section for help. If you have other income, you must provide the proper documentation i.e., IRS Forms 1099R, 1099-DIV, and 1099-B.
Electronic filing can only be accomplished for a joint return with the signature of each spouse, or a specific power of attorney explicitly for the current tax year, executed by the spouse not present or a signed IRS Form 2848.



TOWN HALL MEETINGS JAN. 28, 29 & 30 1 TO 3 P.M.

EVANS THEATER 1396 GARDEN AVENUE

Mandatory attendance at one of the Town Hall Meetings is required for all U.S. Army Garrison employees. Maximum attendance with minimal operation disruptions is encouraged during these periods. Each meeting will have the same agenda. Information provided will include FSH issues, A-76 Update, Civilian Personnel Information and questions and answers session.
A translator for hearing impaired employees will be available for the Jan. 30 meeting. Everyone entering the facility will be required to show a valid ID card.

Vaccine ban for pregnant servicewomen strengthened

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder issued policy guidance today that reiterates and strengthens long-standing DoD policy to avoid immunization of servicewomen of childbearing age during pregnancy.
This action was taken because of issues raised about preliminary data from a non-peer reviewed Naval Health Research Center Study of women who received the anthrax vaccine.
“Although these study results are preliminary and there are significant concerns about the database that require further investigation before any conclusions can

be made, we are taking these steps to reaffirm our existing policies,” stated Winkenwerder.
The preliminary data, which has not been scientifically peer reviewed and will require further validation, identified a possible relationship between maternal anthrax vaccination in the first trimester and higher odds of birth defects. Because the data supporting the study showed that a number of women might have received the anthrax vaccine beyond the first trimester, study data is now being re-validated. The peer-review publication process usually takes several months. The final report will be available then.

From **Surgeon** on Page 6
related training was a great experience for me and the level of safety was a big confidence booster for me.”
Now that DeVries has graduated from the Basic Officer Course, he will use his new found knowledge of the Army and how it operates to better his work at Walter Reed. He also plans to go on the road to help recruit others who may want to

serve their country as they wind down their civilian careers, but he won't stop there.
“I feel that the past year has been one of the best in my life. After the events of September 11, I felt like I was doing something to fight our enemies. I want continue to do my part and I hope to attend the Advanced Officer's Course and hopefully Command and Staff College.”

Recruiting picture murky in post-Sept. 11 world

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Recruiters said it is too early to gauge whether the events of Sept. 11 will translate into more young Americans wanting to join the military.

In the days and weeks following the attacks in New York and the Pentagon, people calling toll-free recruiting numbers or entering recruiting Web sites went up dramatically, said recruiters in all services.

"The number of people calling our toll-free number increased and the hits on our Web site spiked," said Lt. Ingrid Mueller, a Navy Recruiting Command spokeswoman. "Since then, the numbers have leveled out, but at a higher level than previously."

But many of the calls are from veterans asking how to get back in, or older Americans asking for information or from Americans just wanting to tell the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard that they are proud of them.

"We love these calls," Mueller said, "but the calls are not coming from that group of young men and women we need in the military."

But these calls indicate a change in the way Americans regard the military, and this may indicate a different recruiting environment in the months

and years to come. One aspect of recruiting during the war on terrorism, for instance, is the very nature of the conflict works against a sudden surge of enlistments.

The war on terrorism is not World War II. In December 1941, men swamped recruiting stations around the United States to enlist. The crush was so great that many recruiting stations had to tell the men to go home and wait for their draft notices — the military had no way to absorb, process and train so many enlistees. The war the United States entered following the attack on Pearl Harbor needed mass armies, navies and air forces. The U.S. military grew from around 1.5 million in the beginning of 1942 to more than 10 million by September 1945.

The active duty U.S. military before Sept. 11, 2001, was about 1.4 million; the military end strength in September 2002 will be about 1.4 million. In other words, there will be no change in the size of the force. Add to this the fact that people enlisting on any given day may not have to leave home for up to a year.

DoD officials point out that the U.S. military is already the best, most potent military force in the world. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said the

U.S. military does not need more people at this time. But while the number of people in the military will remain constant, he says, how they are configured will change.

Given this situation, enlisting in the military is still an option, but not a mass outlet for Americans who wish to help in the war on terror. Recruiters are not going to find recruiting for the military to be easy, although Sept. 11 may make the atmosphere for recruiting easier.

"The thinking in many places is that having the American people think highly of the military will be good for recruiting," said Air Force Capt. Gwen Rutherford, a recruiting specialist in DoD's personnel and readiness office.

She said that following Sept. 11 and subsequent actions in Afghanistan, many Americans see the military as "noble people doing great things."

Americans who grew up after the draft ended in 1973 are less likely to know anything about the military firsthand, Rutherford said. "It's not so much that they were opposed to the military, they just didn't know anything about it," she said.

It is possible these Americans are more apt now to recommend the military be-

cause of its reputation in the days that have followed Sept. 11. Again, Rutherford pointed out, interest has not translated in signed contracts.

"There's nothing concrete," she said. "The data is not there yet."

But anecdotally, recruiters are meeting people they haven't in the past. Marine Sgt. James Covington, a Marine Corps Recruiting Command spokesman in Quantico, Va., said young men and women who ordinarily go straight into college are speaking with recruiters. "This does not mean they are signing up, but they are showing interest," he said.

Rutherford said her research agrees with this anecdotal evidence. "Our data show that more people have thought about military service," she said.

"It's still a very challenging recruiting environment," SSgt. John Asselin, an Air Force Recruiting Service spokesman. "We're still competing with Fortune 500 companies for the best people."

Asselin said recruiters still have to dig for qualified young men and women. He said the service continues to make its goals, but the life of the recruiters continues to be challenging. "This is not going to change any time in the near future," he

said.

All services reported an increase in "walk ins" at their stations following Sept. 11. Army recruiters noticed an increase in young men wanting to become Ranger or Special Forces soldiers. In fact, the Army introduced a test program to recruit nonprior service recruits into the Green Berets. About 400 of these enlistees will go through 80 weeks of training. This program was in the works before Sept. 11, said Army officials.

President Bush has said Americans are coming together following Sept. 11. They are. The increased interest in the military is just one example of the phenomenon. But increased interest does not mean young men and women are clamoring to get into the military.

"Patriotism is a motivator in getting people into the military," said the Navy's Mueller. "But so is training, and so is college money, and so is improving your situation. The military has to continue to offer these benefits."

No one in recruiting is going to lessen efforts to find and enlist qualified young people. "It's good that Americans are interested in their military, but that really isn't making our jobs any easier yet," Asselin said.

E Company 232 Medical Battalion begins new era

By 1st Lt. Tania Garcia
Special to the News Leader

On September 10, 2001, Echo Company 232d Medical Battalion took the first step in producing soldier medics of the future. Class 24-01 became the initial pilot class to help validate training doctrine, procedure and course materials for the forthcoming classes. The 91B conversion to 91W marks the evolution of the second largest military occupational specialty in the U. S. Army.

A new requirement of today’s health care specialist, formerly medical specialist, is the National Registered Emergency Medical Technician-Basic certification. Unlike the 91B’s, the 91Ws will possess trauma-essential training and can perform extended pre-hospital care. The new medic is a self-sufficient medic—a medic who is trained to sustain life for up to 72 hours on an increasingly diverse battlefield.

The 16-week resident training course encompasses all the aspects of a fully trained Combat Medic and incorporates the six-week emergency medical technician course, from clinical hands-on training to academic classroom instruction. The final week of training culminates with the field training exercise at Camp Bullis. During the FTX, soldier medics are exposed to battlefield scenarios designed to familiarize them with patient treatment throughout the echelons of care from the front line to the forward support medical company.

Recent graduate and junior leader of the cycle, Pfc. Brian Hawkins, describes the 91W course as, “fulfilling.” He also stated that, “After 16 weeks of training, you get an exhilarating feeling to know you have completely and thoroughly covered every aspect of the soldier medic.”

The 91W pilot course was physically demanding and academically challenging. On Jan. 18, 77 of the original 111 soldier medics enrolled proudly walked across the stage to become the first 91W Health Care Specialists.



(Above right) Soldiers stand at attention during first 91W Course graduation at Blesse auditorium. Photo by Master Sgt. James Herron

U.S. Forces to help Philippines fight terrorists

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

U.S. forces are moving into the Philippines, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters today.

The movement of the troops is in response to addressing the global aspects of terrorist groups, he said. “The Philippines has a problem with terrorists and terrorism,” Rumsfeld told reporters. He said the Al Qaeda terrorist network has been linked to terrorist activities that have taken place in the Philippines.

Rumsfeld, a critic of spreading the military too thin in the pre-Sept. 11 world, said U.S. forces should be prepared to combat terrorists and terror organization. “If we have to go into 15 more countries, we ought to do it to deal with the problem of terrorism so we don’t allow this problem to damage and kill tens of thousands,” he said.

The Abu Sayyaf group is active and has taken hostages – including two Americans. At one point, the group had as many as 2,000 adherents, said Philippine embassy officials. Abu Sayyaf allegedly is pushing to establish an Islamic Republic on islands in the southern Philippines. But, said embassy officials, past moves have cut off the group’s funds. One embassy official described the group as “little more than bandits.” Abu Sayyaf’s main base is Basilan Island, near the island of

Mindanao.

The Philippine government has thousands of troops engaged in anti-terrorism efforts. “We have between 240 and 250 American military personnel in the country,” Rumsfeld said. The service members are located at many points in the country and “many hundreds” more are going in.

U.S. forces will help train Philippine soldiers and help them with logistics, intelligence and communications. U.S. troops will also participate in exercises.

The initiative grew out of meetings in Washington last November between President Bush and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. According to a joint statement, the two discussed “an integrated plan including a robust training package, equipment needed for increased mobility, a maintenance program to enhance overall capabilities, specific targeted law enforcement and counter terrorism cooperation and a new bilateral defense consultative mechanism.”

Bush has pledged to work with Congress to increase the Foreign Military Financing program with the Philippines from \$1.9 million to \$19 million for fiscal 2002, and to continue these levels in fiscal 2003.

Rumsfeld also discussed the Al Qaeda’s quest to develop weapons of mass destruction. To date, he said, he’s

only seen things showing the terrorists’ appetite for weapons of mass destructions — diagrams, materials, reports that things were asked for and reports of things discussed at meetings. He said he doesn’t have hard evidence the terrorists actually have such weapons.

U.S. Central Command officials said troops have searched 45 of 50 suspected weapons of mass destruction facilities in Afghanistan. The results of chemical analyses of materials found in these areas are not complete and there are still some sites to explore, they said.

In Afghanistan, U.S. and coalition forces continue the hunt for Al Qaeda and Taliban leadership and pockets of resistance, said Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. U.S. aircraft flew a number of sorties Jan. 15, but dropped no bombs. They remain on call to engage emerging targets, Myers said.

The chairman said 403 Al Qaeda and Taliban detainees are under U.S. control in Afghanistan. An Air Force jet delivered 30 detainees today to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This brings the number of detainees at the holding facility to 80. Rumsfeld said the interrogation of the terrorists has not begun at the facility.

Myers said U.S. forces returned 90 Pakistani detainees to their own government “for disposition.”

Frequent flier miles allowed

The 2002 Defense Authorization Act now allows official travelers to accept promotional items, including frequent flier miles, and use them for personal travel. According to the new law “any promotional items through official travel belong to the traveler,” said Dwight Moore, staff attorney at U.S. Transportation Command and a principle writer of the proposal. He said TRANSCOM recommended the change to Congress.

Mileage received by service members and federal employees before the bill was passed is also “grandfathered,” Moore said. People who have accumulated mileage in frequent flyer accounts through official travel over the past years own all of that mileage, he said.

Moore explained that frequent-traveler benefits include points or miles, upgrades, or access to carrier clubs or facilities. The change in the law was the result a legislative proposal forwarded by U.S. Transportation Command in 1999 as part its yearly package of proposals for consideration by the Department of Defense and Congress, Moore said.



**Federal Employees
Appreciation Night**
Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Spurs vs Timberwolves
Includes game ticket, XL
Spurs T-shirt, vouchers for
popcorn & soda
Deadline to order is Jan. 31

SAN ANTONIO SPURS T-SHIRT NIGHT ORDER FORM

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Deadline to order is Jan. 31, 2002. Fax order form to
Steve Jacobs at 210-554-0962 or mail to: Steve Jacobs, 100 Montana, San Antonio, TX, 78203.

Family Readiness Groups in the Spotlight!

Have you been “elected,” “assigned” or “volunteered” to head up a Family Readiness Group for your unit? Don’t panic! The Army Family Team Building Instructors are here to show you just what to do to have a successful Family Readiness Group. With the “spotlight” focused more than ever on family readiness this is a great time to re-energize your unit’s FRG.

Are you a new FRG leader who needs a little help getting your group started? Do you need some hot tips

on how to motivate your volunteers? Or are you an old-hand at FRG leadership, but would like to interact with other FRG leaders on Fort Sam Houston. We have a great opportunity for you!

Thursday, Jan. 31, Army Family Team Building Instructors will be conducting a Family Readiness Group Leaders Workshop. It will be held at the Roadrunner Community Center on Stanley, Bldg. 2797 and will be offered once in the morning and

again in the afternoon. This workshop was created especially for you, the FRG leader, so plan to attend and return to your unit family readiness group with new information, new ideas and new energy for 2002!

All participants must be registered to attend. Workshops will be 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. For more information or to register for the workshop contact Connie Fretwell at 221-2705.



Reminder: Soldiers keep your DEERS updated

The Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS), is the data base that stores medical benefit data for military personnel, retirees, and eligible family members. Service members and retirees are the sponsors for their family members’ medical benefits and are responsible

for the accuracy of the DEERS information. Correct, up-to-date DEERS information is essential, since this data define your medical benefits.

When an eligible family member receives a uniformed services identification and privilege card, or ID card, that information is deposited in DEERS.

However, the sponsor must ensure the information is correct.

Reasons why a change in DEERS is warranted: marriage, re-marriage, birth of a child, move and others. You can make changes through your military support office, the same office that assists you with your ID card. You can

locate your nearest military support office at the RAPIDS Site Locator on the Web at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs1/>.

To make address changes or to verify data online, log on to the Defense Manpower Data Center [web site](#).

Army Reserve Duty has ‘changed forever’ since September 11

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

Since Sept. 11, the nation’s Army Reserve forces are mobilizing faster than ever before, according to the chief of the Army Reserve.

“This Army Reserve will never be the same again,” Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes told several hundred military officers at the Reserve Officer Association mid-winter conference here. At present, 12,000 Army Reserves and 21,400 National Guard are on duty in 50 countries around the world.

“Missions that we had only given lip service to are now essential missions,” the general noted. “The timing of our call ups, and the expectations of the American people as to what the Army Reserve needs to do and how it has to do it, have changed forever.”

Before Sept. 11, the general said, the Army Reserve focused on unit and people readiness, job specialty qualification, training programs, equipment readiness and deployments. “We had no idea what our role was in homeland security,” he noted. “We didn’t know what ‘hasty mobilization’ meant. ‘Threat Condition’ didn’t figure heavy in our lexicon.”

The role of the reserve components has changed dramatically, the general said. In Vietnam, the military only called up 3,000 reservists. In the aftermath, however, Army Gen. Creighton W. Abrams enunciated the Abrams Doctrine which essentially said, ‘You’re not going to go to war again without calling up the spirit of the American people and you do that

by calling up the National Guard and Reserve.’

In Desert Storm, the nation called up 135,000 reservists. “They couldn’t do it without us and we were there and we were successful,” Plewes said. “We established a new basis for where we moved in the future.”

Now, the Army Reserve is learning first hand what force protection means in terms of threat conditions, he said. Today, more than 800 Army Reserve soldiers are on duty doing force protection work. They’re also learning what ‘hasty mobilization’ means.

Before Desert Storm, he said, the Reserves were satisfied with the capability of calling up soldiers in 30, 60, 90 or 180 days, depending upon how soon they had to be in the Cold War battle. After Desert Storm, Army Reserve officials knew they had to be able to get in faster – 10 days for highest priority units, and 30 or 60 days for other organizations.

After Sept. 11, we began looking at models that said it had to be from 24 hours to 10 days,” Plewes said. “The way we did business just doesn’t work anymore.”

Mobilization procedures that were “thrown out the window” following the terrorist attack are now being “truncated,” Plewes said. In the past, when soldiers were called up to go to Bosnia, Kosovo or East Timor, they had time to get ready to go – 10 days at home stations, then they went to a mobilization to be certified and validated.

In Desert Storm it took six

months to deploy 84,000 Reserve service members, he noted. Reserve personnel were on the scene immediately after the Sept. 11 attack, and it took four days to put 2,500 Reserves on duty.

“That’s a real challenge for the Reserves,” Plewes said. “The National Guard in its state missions has been doing that for years, but we’re part of the federal force. Bringing a federal force to emergencies so quickly is really not something that the Army has been doing.”

Today, he stressed, maintaining readiness is not an “occasional thing, but a constant thing.” At present, he said, about half of the Army Reserve military intelligences forces and military police are employed.

The response from both Reservists and employers has been fantastic, the general noted. During Desert Storm, he said, between 15 and 25 percent of the units were unable to deploy due to health or family reasons.

“This time around, the number is five to 10 percent,” he said.

Army Reserve units have had practice preparing for deployments. About 15,000 Reserve soldiers were mobilized for Bosnia and Kosovo. Reserve officials have focused on readiness, family plans and employer support.

“This has paid great dividends,” Plewes said. “We are much more ready in terms of unit deployability than we were in the past.

Since Sept. 11, he said, there “has been a tremendous outpouring of employer support.”

“We’ve had good employer support for Bosnia and Kosovo. I don’t want to diminish that. But this time around, we have many more employers, both public and private, who are matching the salaries — or continuing the salaries if a military salary is significantly less — of their employees.”

The war against terrorism “is close to home” and employers recognize it’s directly in company interests to support the military.

“There’s been a real heartening response on the part of employers. During Desert Storm, we had a tremendous problem with universities. They wouldn’t give people credit or their money back, even when it was only one or two weeks into the semester. This time, we’ve had no problems with universities. They’ve given money back and in some cases, they’ve forgiven courses toward a degree.”

The war on terrorism has also caused a rise in recruiting particularly among ‘prior service’ people who have already served on active duty or in the reserves.

“There’s something going on that they want to be part of,” Plewes explained. “Prior service people make up most of the increase in our recruiting numbers, but we’re meeting our objectives in non-prior service as well.”

Three years ago, Plewes noted, the Army Reserve fell short 10,000 recruits. Last year, they surpassed the recruiting goal by 102 percent because of the rush to the recruiting stations immediately after the Sept. 11 attack.

“Young people are finding it a good thing to do to join the Army Reserve,” the general said. “Certainly, the economy has something to do with that, but there is a very strong feeling growing among young people now that they want to get back into serving their country.”

Army Vice Chief says U.S. will defeat global terrorism

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

Terrorists hate the United States for “who we are and what we stand for,” Army Gen. John Keane told several hundred military reserve officers here today.

Speaking at the Reserve Officer Association mid-winter conference, the Army’s vice chief of staff said the United States would win the war against terrorism wherever it’s battles may be waged. Destroying the terrorists’ “safe haven” in Afghanistan, he said, “is only the beginning.”

People know what happened Sept. 11, Keane noted, but they may not truly understand why terrorists attacked America’s homeland. Many Americans, he noted, may have difficulty understanding why living among us for three or four years had no impact on the terrorists.

“What they see is what they hate,” Keane explained.

No other country in history has so dominated the world economically, culturally and militarily as the United States, he said. Terrorists such as Osama bin Laden and the Al Qaeda network aim to destroy what they consider America’s “pollution of the world with its values.”

“Terrorists are fundamentally opposed to universal suffrage, which is an inalienable right we have fought for and have laws to protect,” the general said. “They are fundamentally opposed to the personal freedom we have in this country.

“They oppose equal rights for women,” he continued. “They are fundamentally opposed to the separation of church and state, which is guaranteed in our Constitution. They resent the material prosperity of this country which permits a breakdown of class distinction.”

In the 1960s through the 1980s, terrorists had more narrowly focused political objectives and were willing to

negotiate, said the general, whose military career includes duty in Vietnam and command of the Army’s 101st Airborne Division. Today, terrorist networks are global and have broad strategic objectives.

“They could care less about negotiating with anyone,” he said. “They know what their goals are and they’re moving toward those goals.”

Today’s terrorists are determined to remove the U.S. military presence in Muslim countries in the Persian Gulf region, change what they believe is a repressive regime in Saudi Arabia, and see to the destruction of Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian state. However, the general said, the terrorists underestimated Americans and their resolve, and made an “incredible, monumental miscalculation.”

Terrorists misread U.S. foreign policy when the United States pulled out of Lebanon following the 1983 suicide

bombing that killed nearly 300 Marines and pulled out of Somalia in 1993 after 18 U.S. soldiers died and 76 were wounded. The terrorists saw these changes as “weakness of the American people and their disdain for casualties,” he said.

“In my judgment, nothing could be further from the truth,” Keane declared. “The American people have and they’ve always had, resolve. Casualties do not intimidate them. They certainly do not welcome them. They want to keep them as low as possible. Their commitment to America’s military is clear.”

President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the nation’s military chiefs are “absolutely committed to this war on terrorism,” Keane stressed. “We will succeed. Why? Because the American people — their resolve — is behind us.”

America’s people are committed to combating terrorism, he said, “not just in the near term, not just throughout this year, but in the years to come.

SPECIAL FORCES RECRUITER VISIT

**JAN. 28 TO FEB. 1
10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**ROAD RUNNER
COMMUNITY CENTER
TRAINING ROOM 2**

Enlisted soldiers E-4 through E-7 bring your 2a\2-1\ERB. Officers YG 98-00, bring your ORB and schedule yourself for an SF Physical at your Troop Medical Clinic. Special Forces offers a wide variety of missions and a varied operations tempo. Some of the missions include but are not limited to Direct Action, Foreign Internal Defense, Anti Terrorism, Special Reconnaissance, and other activities. Be prepared for an exciting and enhanced career change with higher pay and promotion advancement opportunity for both officer and enlisted personnel.



Contact your Special Forces Recruiter at DSN 738-5324 or 7411, commercial (254) 288-5324 or 7411. Cell phone (254) 392-0270. The fax number is (254) 287-4934. The address is PO Box 5577 Fort Hood, TX 76544.

Outstanding Cole teacher earns ExCEL Golden Apple Award and \$1,000

By Gail Siller
Special to the News Leader

January 15, 2002 will be a day that Robert G. Cole High School teacher Nancy Hildenburg should long remember. A home economics instructor and sponsor of the Senior High Student Council, Hildenburg was honored with the ExCEL Golden Apple Award and a check for \$1,000 during a school assembly held in her honor.

Sponsored by KENS TV 5 and the San Antonio Federal Credit Union, the ExCEL Award is given to one teacher from each school district located in the greater San Antonio area as a tribute to outstanding educators. KENS TV5 anchorwoman Deborah Knapp Bonilla, who was the assembly’s mistress of ceremonies, hailed Hildenburg for her profound impact working with students both in the classroom and out.

“It is a pleasure to honor such a talented teacher who has touched the lives of so many students and taught them skills that will last a lifetime,” stated Bonilla. “She has clearly demonstrated an ability to reach all types of students, affording them the opportunity to succeed and excel.”

“Nancy Hildenburg’s commitment to providing students with ‘real life’ lessons is surpassed only by her dedication to helping students outside the classroom,” said Roland Rios, Cole High School principal.

Hildenburg has overseen the organization of the many community and school projects sponsored by the Student Council including all Homecoming activities. She is



Left to right Anne Kiehle, Superintendent for the FSH Independent School District, Nancy Hildenburg, ExCEL Golden Apple award recipient, and Deborah Knapp Bonilla, KENS TV5 news anchor, listen to laudatory remarks made by Roland Rios, Cole High School principal during the award presentation.

a strong supporter of Cole’s Drama Department and volunteers as assistant director and chief costume maker for campus productions. Always willing to help in activities that benefit students, Hildenburg also serves as a senior class sponsor, a Peer Mediation student trainer, and has helped with the Academic Decathlon team.

“As Senior High Student Council sponsor for the past eight years, Nancy Hildenburg has turned that organization into a valuable asset for the Cole campus,” stated Rios. “Students are extremely involved in participating in a wide variety of

activities from raising funds for charities to hosting school dances.”

“Hildenburg also serves as a member of Cole’s site-based decision-making committee where she offers constructive ideas and suggestions for the continual improvement of our school,” added Rios.

A graduate of Texas Tech University, Hildenburg has taught home economics education at Cole High School for the past ten years. With a total of 23 years teaching experience, Hildenburg is recognized for her positive impact on the students, staff and community members.

The Cougar Pride Club wants you

As the new school year unfolds, the Cougar Pride Club would like to extend an invitation to parents, teachers and friends to support Cole Jr./Sr. High School students to join our organization. The Cougar Pride Club is a voluntary organization dedicated to assisting students in their pursuit of excellence in academics, athletics, band and other school related activities.

The club is more than a parent-teacher organization or a booster group. It is composed of dedicated members who support a wide range of student activities. The club sponsors the biannual “C” awards ceremonies, which recognizes students’ accomplishments. The Cougar Pride Club also raises and awards thousands of dollars in scholarships for deserving students. The club can only work and succeed through your participation and commitment, and your membership is important. Make plans to attend the next meeting on Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in at Cole High School in the Media Center. For more information contact Karen Bagg at 212-5359.

Bush’s new education plan puts education back where it belongs

By Henry Bonilla
23rd Congressional District

Finally, the national government is giving power back to parents and educators. Finally, the national government concedes that parents and educators know what is best for school children — not bureaucrats at the Department of Education. Finally, the national government is giving schools the flexibility they need to insure that every child receives the best education possible. Finally, education returns to a commonsense grassroots approach of local and state accountability.

Curious what plan I’m discussing? It’s President Bush’s new education plan, which he signed into law just days ago. The “No Child Left Behind Act” is going to change the education of our children. By cutting the bureaucratic tape, we’re putting our nation’s education system in the hands of educators, not political leaders in Washington, D.C.

This is the end of the one-size-fits-all approach to education. The new approach cuts down on federal requirements and gives schools the flexibility they need and deserve. First things first, we’re making it possible for schools to reduce class size by hiring more teachers. This is simple math. The smaller the classroom, the more attention students receive and the better they do in school. And we’re not just hiring more teachers. We’re also giving schools the freedom to provide more professional development for teachers. The more knowledge our teachers possess, the more our children receive.

The No Child Left Behind Act promotes early reading skills and strengthens our focus on math and science education. Funds are allocated for better math and

science programs. We’re encouraging schools to make their programs more rigorous to help children reach higher educational goals. The new plan includes a performance-based grant program. This program supplies more funding to schools so they may increase literacy in technology. In other words, schools that need the most help will get it.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this legislation is that we’re putting discretion in the hands of the schools. We’re giving the schools the ability to assess their needs and decide how they will spend their federal funding. They can choose to spend more on development or they can make reducing class size a priority. Schools will make the decisions, not bureaucrats.

This is where the parents come in. Washington gives you the power and responsibility to make your school accountable for these initiatives. Parents, you have a right to expect results from your children’s schools. And schools have the right to demand results from the parents as well. Prepare your children every day so they arrive ready to learn at school. Reinforce good study habits, and reward efforts made by your children and by the school. Get to know the teachers and faculty. Support your local schools.

Washington is finally learning its lesson. Finally there is an initiative to return education where it rightfully belongs, with the parents and teachers. I’m proud that our new education initiative recognizes that local control of education will provide our students with the best education possible. It is time Washington finally stepped aside, and let Texans decide how to educate the children of Texas.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Weekly Campus Activities

Jan. 28 – Feb. 2

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School
Monday, Jan. 28 – Feb. 1
G.A.T.E. Nominations

Wednesday, Jan. 30
Field Testing: SDAA Reading - Grades 3-6

Thursday, Jan. 31
Field Testing: SDAA Math - Grades 3 - 6

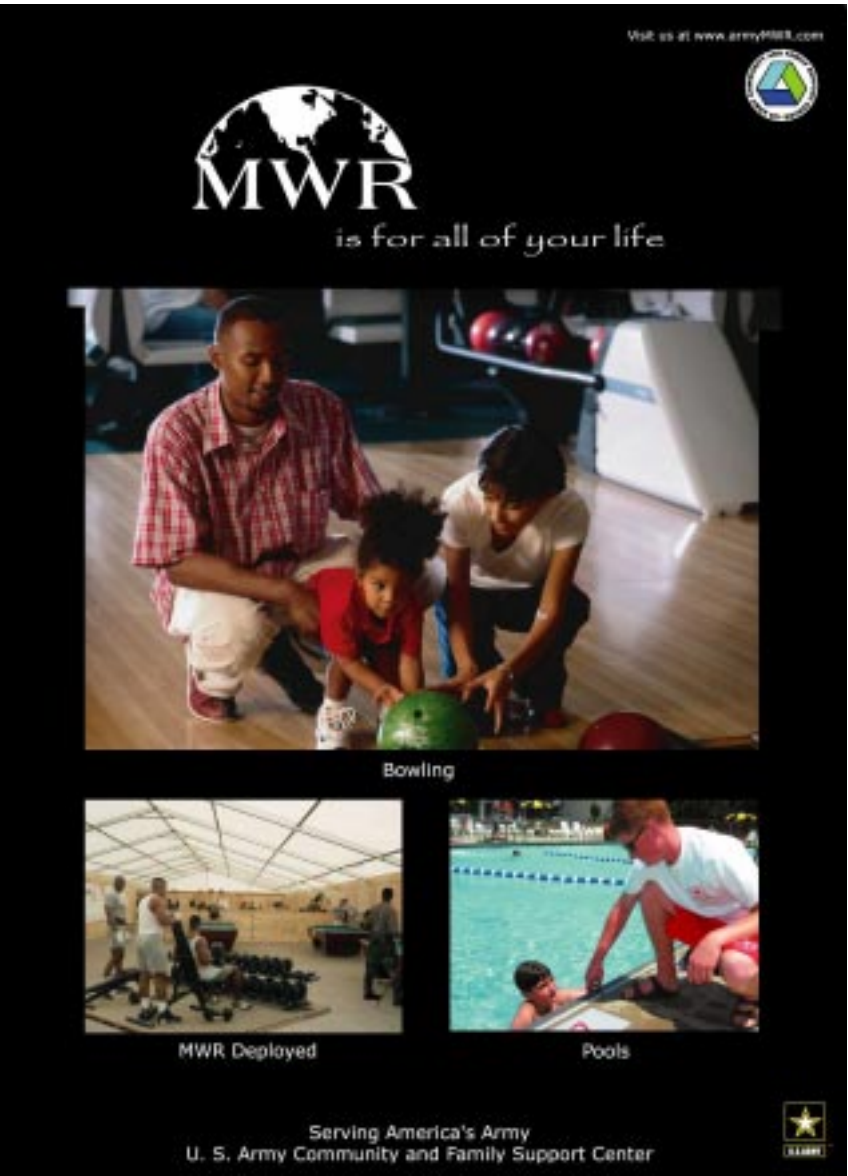
Friday, Feb. 1
Field Testing: SDAA Writing - Grades 3 - 6
Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School
Tuesday, Jan. 29
Field Testing: SDAA Writing, 7th Grade - Reading, 8th Grade – TBA

Wednesday, Jan. 30
Field Testing: SDAA Math, (8th Grade) - TBA
Boys Soccer at TMI - 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1
Boys BB vs Stockdale at Cole - 5 and 8 p.m.
Girls V BB vs Stockdale at Cole - 6:30 p.m.
Girls JV BB vs Stockdale at Central Post Gym - 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2
UIL Region 12 Band Solo Ensemble at Madison High School – TBA



MWR offers fun for the whole family

By Emily B.D. Freeman
Special to the News Leader

Morale, Welfare and Recreation supply the military community with a variety of fun activities designed to make life just a little bit more enjoyable. As part of the continuing ad campaign, “MWR is for all of Your Life” this week’s ad features Bowling, Pools and MWR Deployed.

Bowling Center

Fort Sam Houston’s Bowling Center, located in Building 2521 Schofield Road, offers a variety of family oriented fun activities. Enjoy Family Fun Day from 2 to 9 p.m. every Sunday, this smoke free time is sure to be a hit. The Bowling Center is also the perfect place to host a birthday party, for a child or an adult. They have an assortment of party packages to choose from. The Bowling Center hosts other exciting events such as Cyber Bowl every Saturday from 10 p.m. to midnight and Open Bowling. A variety of bowling leagues play at the Fort Sam Bowling Center throughout the year as well as a post Intramural team. The Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center is also the perfect place to grab a bite to eat. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner at Mean Gene’s Burgers. Call 221-3683 for more information.

Swimming Pools

The Fort Sam Houston community enjoys two swimming pools. Fort Sam Houston’s Jimmy Brought Fitness Center is home to a 25-meter pool that is open year round. Enjoy the fitness benefits of swimming laps in the roped-off lanes, or try Water Fitness, an invigorating low-impact workout offered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Water Fitness Classes cost \$2 each, call 221-1234 for more information about this class or any of the other aerobics classes offered at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

Fort Sam’s second pool is an outdoor pool located on Williams Road. This 50- meter Olympic size pool is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Enjoy roped- off lanes, a large open swim area, swimming lessons for young and old and more. There is also a baby pool and playground for the younger swimmers. The pool is currently undergoing renovations, which include the addition of new water slides for all to enjoy. Call 221-4887 for more information.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The chance of being deployed is always there and MWR is there, right along with the soldiers. Department of the Army civilian professionals/employees selected from installations worldwide carry on the tradition of providing morale, welfare and recreation programs to soldiers on the front lines through tent-based recreation centers and mobile recreation programs. Civilian MWR professionals serve a 1-3 year tour, living in field conditions, working, sleeping and eating side by side with the soldiers. They run sports tournaments, arrange special events, manage library and education programs, distribute donations from the civilian sector, and provide cultural tours. MWR encompasses a variety of programs and services that enhance the well being of the soldier, family member, retiree, and civilian. Our promotional efforts feature all of those programs, proving that “MWR is for all of your life.”



Courtesy photo

Special Medical Augmentation Response Team burn care specialist from the Institute of Surgical Research burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center participate as consultants for surgeons in Lima, Peru, operating on a burn patient.

SMART burn specialists aid Lima fire victims

By Cleo Brennan
Special to the News Leader

More than 66 burn victims of the Dec. 29 fire in Lima, Peru were spread among local hospitals when the burn care specialists from the U.S. Army SMART unit arrived in Peru Jan. 9. The Special Medical Augmentation Response Team (SMART-Burn) from the Institute of Surgical Research at Brooke Army Medical Center deployed to augment local medical resources with burn care expertise and technical assistance. The team is capable of deploying year-round and can be ready in less than 12 hours to respond to civil-military disasters and mass casualty emergencies, according to ISR Commander Col. (Dr.) Cleon Goodwin.

The fire, caused by a fireworks explosion that rapidly spread from shop to shop, engulfed the Mesa Redonda fireworks shopping area of downtown Lima during year-end holiday celebrations, and claimed more than 250 lives. Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lee Cancio led the SMART mission which included Maj. (Dr.) Hazel Joseph; registered nurse Capt. Paul Mittelsteadt; Staff Sgt. Charles Turner, respiratory care specialist; and licensed practical nurse Staff Sgt. Concepcion Reyna.

In one hospital, 23 patients suffered burns ranging between 15-25 percent of their total body surface area. There were seven patients from the Mesa Redonda fire among the 38 critically burned children in the Children's Hospital, which receives burned children from all over Peru. The host nation surgeons reported feeling overwhelmed by the number of patients. Most had been operating everyday since the explosion.

The shortage of qualified nursing personnel is also a major problem, according to Cancio. During the day, only two nurses take care of these patients, with one or two nurse's aides, with only one nurse and one aide on duty at night. The support staff consists of a part-time psychologist and a physical therapist who comes once a week. In contrast, in the ISR burn center, physical therapy and psychology services provide daily patient care, because physical therapy is vital to



Photo by Hazel Joseph

Hospital workers in Lima, Peru welcome the arrival of critically needed medical supplies for burn patient care, provided through the assistance of the Special Medical Augmentation Response Team.

rehabilitation, and family needs in dealing with post-traumatic stress and other coping issues are so significant.

Timely acquisition and delivery of supplies requested by three of the hospitals with burn patients was a major objective, so Cancio and Mittelsteadt spent a full day at the U.S. Embassy, refining and prioritizing the list and pursuing sources for the supplies. The remainder of the SMART group went to the hospital that received the largest number of burn patients from the Mesa Redonda fire that day and the entire team visited there and three other hospitals throughout the mission.

SMART assistance included evaluating patients, consulting in surgery, providing expertise in wound care, identifying equipment needs and sharing information on modern technology and treatment protocols. Discussions covered pain management, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support and the challenges of multiple drug resistant organisms and systemic infections.

During the week-long mission, the team shared information on wound care, topical antibiotics, diagnosis and treatment of wound infection, physical therapy, nutrition, and management of inhalational injury. Cancio noted that the doctors in Peru were very inter-

ested in the ISR protocol for managing inhalational injury since they do not have such a protocol. One of the hospitals had only one bronchoscope that serves the entire hospital and in fact, they did not use it to assess patients after the Mesa Redonda fire.

Cancio also reported that they lack all types of critical care, operating room, and standard bedside equipment often taken for granted in hospitals here, everything from mechanical ventilators to EKG monitors to lights and temperature control for the operating room.

SMART Facts

SMART members assisted with 87 burn adult and pediatric patients during the week-long mission.

The SMART members provided approximately \$30,000 worth of needed medical supplies to four hospitals.

By the third day, the SMART members and Military Advisory and Assistance Group commander, Col. Bruce Yost, were able to deliver the first shipment of antibiotics, burn creams, gloves, intravenous fluids, dressings and other critical supplies for the burn patients to the hospitals. By the end of the mission, the SMART members' valuable consultation helped provide approximately \$30,000 worth of much needed medical supplies to the four hospitals and consulted on 87 burn adult and pediatric patients.



Photo by Hazel Joseph

(Right) Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lee Cancio (right), leader of the Special Medical Augmentation Response Team deployed to Lima, Peru, reviews the list of needed supplies for burn care as they are delivered at a local hospital.

Surgeon General hosts reception at historical Stilwell House

(Right) Lt. Gen. James Peake, Army Surgeon General and commander, U.S. Army Medical Command, greets Dr. Marvin Smith and his wife, Jill, at the reception held at the historic Stilwell House on Tuesday night.

(Below) Lt. Gen. James Peake renews old acquaintances with the San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston community. Pictured with Peake are Ralph Bender and his wife, Liz Fritz and Col. Johnie Tillman, commander, Defense Medial Readiness Training Institute.



(Left) Councilman Carroll Schubert, District 9, his guest Patty Hall, and Ann Kiehle, Superintendent, Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, enjoy an opportunity to discuss mutual interests during the Stilwell House reception.

(Below) Janice Peake and her son, Tom, welcome Col. Glen Mitchell and his wife, Jane, to the reception at the Stilwell House hosted by Lt. Gen. James B. Peake.



(Left) Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini, commander, Brooke Army Medical Center, Col. James Kirkpatrick, dean, Academy of Health Sciences, and Col. Howard Kimes enjoy the hors d'oeuvres served at the reception held at the Stilwell House.

Photos by
Esther Garcia



The BAMC Beat



New formula to counter chemical, bio attacks

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

Researchers at the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center are developing a powder with enzymes designed to neutralize nerve agents and bio threats such as anthrax.

"Just add water" to the powder and the formula will be able to decontaminate vehicles and other surfaces following a biological or chemical attack, according to Dr. Joseph DeFrank, a biological researcher who has been working on the solution for 17 years.

Last year DeFrank and the Army patented one of his enzymes — Organo Phosphorous Acid Anhydrolase — designed to neutralize G-type nerve agents such as sarin. DeFrank said his team is now talking with companies about possible large-scale production of the enzyme.

The Edgewood team is experimenting with about half a dozen other enzymes that DeFrank said he would like to add to the powder formulation he calls the "Edgewood Enzymatic Decon System."

One of the enzymes would neutralize

the VX-type nerve agent. Another enzyme would counteract sulfur mustard, an oily chemical that became known as "mustard gas" during World War I.

"It's still a real threat," DeFrank said of the mustard blister agent.

Other enzymes could neutralize biological agents such as anthrax, the plague and tularemia. Anthrax is among the toughest bacteria to fight, DeFrank said, because it's hard to kill as a spore. But once the spores come in contact with a food source such as sugar, they begin to germinate and are then easier to eliminate, DeFrank said. So he plans to add sugar or amino acids to his powder formula in order to trick the anthrax spores into germinating.

Along with enzymes, DeFrank said his team is also experimenting with a number of plant oils, spices and herbs that might be used to counter dangerous bacteria. He said some of the common spices and herbs came into use because their ingredients helped preserve foods by killing bacteria that spoiled the foods.

So some of the herbs and spices might be useful, DeFrank said, added to his Enzymatic Decon powder.

"The goal is to have a dry powder

formulation — something like laundry detergent, with a number of enzymes in it," DeFrank said.

DeFrank's powder would be used by mixing it with any water-based application system, such as aircraft de-icing solutions, fire-fighting foam or aqueous degreasers.

In an incident where chemicals may have been released, the enzymatic solution would be used by first responders to quickly neutralize the chemicals before they have a chance to contaminate a wider area, officials said. They added that the catalytic enzymes can neutralize a wide range of chemicals, and are non-toxic, non-corrosive, environmentally safe and affordable.

And DeFrank said the enzymatic powder would not be limited to just battling terrorist attacks. He said the formula could be used by firemen to neutralize large spills of chemicals such as pesticides.

"It's not something that is just going to sit on a shelf," DeFrank said of the formula.

Edgewood is now looking to enter into licensing agreements with foam manufacturers and research and development firms to make the technology available for commercial use, officials said.

DeFrank said he believes a powder

formulation with ability to neutralize some agents should be ready for commercial production in less than a year.

"Having all the multiple enzymes available will take some time longer," he said.

The Edgewood team has already produced a limited amount of the Organo Phosphorous Acid Anhydrolase enzyme in the laboratory. DeFrank said the Edgewood process engineering facility has a fermentation capacity for up to 1,000 liters — which can generate one pound of enzyme, enough to make about 1,300 gallons of decontaminant.

A sample of the enzyme was provided a while back to the Army's Technical Escort Unit at Edgewood for use in the soldiers' backpacks of foam decontaminant, DeFrank said.

Edgewood is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services, and is under the auspices of the U.S. Army's Soldier Biological and Chemical Command. More information on the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center can be found at <http://www.sbccom.apgea.army.mil/RDA/ecbc>.

Leader's Outlook

Responsibility



Col. Stephen Markelz
Deputy Commander
for Administration

We have very astute and knowledgeable people here, and Brooke is one of the places people look to for the right answers.

We are in the business of providing health care services in a military readiness environment. Regardless of the individual task at hand, all of our efforts need to contribute to the provision of health care services. Key staff have areas of responsibility on two different levels. In addition to responsibility in their individual sections and departments, they also have to act as action officers for the organization, in developing the BAMC position. What BAMC thinks about things is made up of department chiefs who have opinions and come together to say what is our considered collective opinion. We are a teaching and referral facility, but we have a leadership role for the other hospitals within the Great Plains as well. People who come to Brooke to serve in a staff role have got to be willing to assume that responsibility. It's most important that people realize they absolutely have to function on both levels.

We have very astute and knowledgeable people here, and Brooke is one of the places people look to for the right answers. The individual staff members are each responsible for their own development and future, to know their job and be out in front. They need to be confident in their own skills, and that confidence is built through training and experience and interaction with their senior staff. We must be willing to invest the time, energy and resources in the development of our people. One of the wonderful things about a medical center environment is that we have the ability to walk down the hall and ask colleagues their opinions, as true in microbiology as in Department of Medicine. Those resident experts in the next office can enhance everybody's level of knowledge and expertise, and more importantly in their own skills and abilities. We are all in this business together and we need to help each other to do the job.



Col. Theresa Tominey
Deputy
Commander for
Nursing

"The decisions that we make and the things we do have a direct impact on other people's health and their lives."

One of the best definitions for responsibility is personal accountability—being answerable for one's own behavior and being trustworthy and dependable. Having both an Army role and health care role, we have an obligation to be responsible for our actions as professionals, both in the military and in the health care arena. That's important because the decisions that we make and the things we do have a direct impact on other people's health and their lives.

We always want people to be safe, but when incidents do occur, we need people who are honest and upfront about the fact that it happened, and we need people who will take accountability for the fact that they made a mistake, so we can identify how we might change a system or process that may have led to the occurrence.

In our society, personal accountability is deteriorating. As we are growing up, we rely on our parents to be that moral compass to guide us, but as adults, we have to take it on ourselves to be accountable. In each of my Department of Nursing orientations, I talk a lot about personal and professional accountability, because I hold nurses and all professionals accountable for their professional actions.

As long as somebody is accountable and responsible for their actions, they have very high esteem in my eyes. I know that they are somebody I can work with because I know they're going to let me know when things aren't going well. Then we can take constructive action.

The highest responsibility is doing the right thing for our patients. People will accept flaws in health care providers as long as they are accountable and responsible for their actions and they're honest about it. In everything we do, our key jobs are those that focus on direct patient care and patient contact.

Readiness - military medicine at its best

By Dr. Thomas Carrato
TRICARE Management Activity

The medical mission of the Military Health System is to directly support warfighters. It integrates all their medical care, from the battlefield to the military treatment facility. This makes TRICARE an extraordinary health care program.

From a historical perspective, surgery, medicine, and the battlefield are inseparable. Now, as we respond to anthrax scares and the prospect of other bioterrorism incidents, the Department of Defense is working closely with other government agencies and the public, offering its knowledge, expertise and resources to defend the country against this type of attack. By providing the highest quality health care and medical support for our active duty personnel and their families, TRICARE maximizes force readiness.

As part of their readiness preparation, military medical personnel

practice several mass casualty response scenarios. Just last May, they simulated a response to an accidental plane crash into The Pentagon. Well-prepared combat medics coordinated the rescue efforts in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on The Pentagon. They worked in close partnership with local community medical personnel who quickly arrived on the scene. It is clear that military and civilian medical personnel will need to continue to combine their resources to handle any future terrorist threats.

TRICARE is an integrated, worldwide health care program. A Theater Medical Information Program (TMIP) integrates medical information systems to ensure theater medical services can be mobilized, deployed and sustained anywhere, anytime, in support of any mission. TMIP will provide a computerized patient record, and will give providers secure access to a complete, comprehensive medical and dental health record for each

Military Health System beneficiary at any military treatment facility worldwide. Timely and accurate information about units and individuals is critical to rapid mobilization and strategic deployment in support of military missions. The Composite Health Care System, health risk appraisal systems, and other military inpatient and outpatient data tracking systems will be key to linking medical information.

The current war on terrorism reminds us that TRICARE, as an integral component of the worldwide Military Health System, cares for every warrior, every active duty and retired uniformed service member, and every service family, from the community to the battlefield. TRICARE truly gets the job done for America.

(Source: TRICARE Website, from the monthly column Plain Talk About TRICARE. Carrato is the executive director of the TRICARE Management Activity)

Two new benefits for TRICARE beneficiaries

Two changes to your TRICARE benefits, schools physicals coverage and catastrophic cap reduction, were implemented as of Dec. 15. These newly covered school physicals covered for school aged children 5-11 in conjunction with school enrollment, will be offered under Preventive Services and subject to cost-shares and deductibles as prescribed by your TRICARE plan benefit is retroactive to Oct. 30, 2000. This means that you will automatically receive refunds, when applicable, for your children's school physicals (contractors will be responsible for sending out refunds). At the same time, the TRICARE fiscal year catastrophic cap will be reduced from \$7,500 to \$3,000 for retirees, family members of retirees and survivors. The catastrophic cap reduction is retroactive to Oct. 1, 2000, therefore, contractors will be responsible for researching their files and sending out refunds. As a TRICARE beneficiary, you have a catastrophic cap loss protection limit (or catastrophic cap) for your health care costs. This means there is a limit to your out-of-pocket expenses. TRICARE Prime retirees, retiree family members and survivors will have a catastrophic cap of \$3,000 per enrollment year, as well as a \$3,000 catastrophic cap per fiscal year. The enrollment year catastrophic cap is based on your 12-month Prime enrollment period. The fiscal year catastrophic cap runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30 each year. Out-of-pocket expenses go in both the fiscal year and enrollment year "buckets." TRICARE enrollees will pay no more applicable out-of-pocket expenses for the rest of the enrollment year once the enrollment year catastrophic cap is met, or for the rest of the fiscal year once the fiscal year is met. Deductibles and cost shares imposed on services provided under Point-of-Service (POS) may not be credited to the enrollment year catastrophic cap. However, enrollment fees, deductibles, copayments and cost-shares, including those assessed to POS may be credited to the fiscal year catastrophic cap. For example, if you pay \$250 out-of pocket, that \$250 is credited once towards your enrollment year and again towards your fiscal year catastrophic cap. For more information regarding either of these new benefits, or for information on how you may receive a reimbursement due to the catastrophic cap reduction, call your TRICARE Service Center or Beneficiary Service Representative at (800) 406-2832.

Church tour explores designs for worship

By Rev. Dr. James Schellenberg
BAMC Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care

Forty-two members of the BAMC Catholic congregation toured various churches of the San Antonio Catholic Archdiocese to observe how the newer Catholic architecture and modern trends in church design reflected the attitude of renewal of the Second Vatican Council.

Following Morning Prayer in the BAMC chapel and a light continental breakfast, the passengers boarded a bus for the "BAMC Catholic Tour" and many parishes and chapels generously opened their doors for a look at the heritage and future in local Catholic church architecture.

At the Church of the Holy Spirit, they examined the sculptured artwork, the Narthex and Baptistry, church interior and the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament.

The second stop was St. Mark the Evangelist where the highlight was beautiful stained glass windows. The tour group noted in the design of this church, how the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament enabled the faithful to view the Blessed



St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Boerne, Texas (Photo by Christiane Crocker)

Sacrament from afar or spend time in it's chapel, for private prayer. What spoke to the group was how the church's designers were able to blend the contemporary and yet not lose its sense of tradition or catholicity.

Many were eager for the next stop, to see St. Peter the Apostle in Boerne, Texas because of the controversy surrounding the design and preservation of the older church building. Part of the first church was still standing. As the group made its way into the church, the baptistery, the openness of the sanctuary and the use of Texas stone and mesquite won immediate acclaim. Part of the 1923 old church is still used as a day chapel, and the original construction of the Bell Towers remains exposed. Stained glass windows, niches for the statuary, and artwork provided a sacred space where people could gather for prayer and liturgy.

The last church was the Motherhouse Chapel for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. It is a popular wedding spot, due to its choir style seating, stained glass windows, great Stations of the Cross with a huge aisle and ample sanctuary. Next trip? The Painted Churches!

When BAMC family pulls together it's in the bag

By Sgt. Lorna Lewis
BAMC Brigade

More than 70 volunteers traded in their "day jobs" to work for spare change, unloading shopping carts and bagging groceries at two of the checkout lanes at the Fort Sam Houston Commissary. Their financial ambition was to raise a few dollars for the BAMC Family Readiness Group (FRG) Children's Holiday Party. Coleta Perugini, member of the FRG steering committee introduced the idea, which was a successful fund-raiser in other places, and put the plan to the Fort Sam commissary manager.

The Children's Holiday Party committee was

thrilled at the favorable response from the commissary manager and immediately sent out a request for volunteers. Along with hospital employees, including most of the command group, spouses and children also turned out for the day. Youngsters also had the opportunity to earn commuBrig. Gen. Daniel Perugini spent several hours bagging groceries as he recalled the experience of an earlier age and customers admired his bagging skills.

The venture raised more than \$1,300 for the children's party according to Coleta Perugini, while volunteers relished the camaraderie and teamwork.

Numerous groups and individuals contributed to the very successful holiday kiddies' bash and thanks go out to them all.

It's a hazard-- Don't sleep on it

- The National Center for Health Statistics says Carbon Monoxide is to blame for 3500 accidental deaths and suicides each year in the United States alone. It is the NUMBER 1 cause of all deaths by poisoning.
- The cause of CO poisoning is often a faulty fuel-burning furnace, oven, water heater, space heater, wood stove, or fireplace. The best way to reduce your risk is to MAINTAIN those appliances.
- A device to measure the air is an essential backup and you should have at least one CO detector, preferably in a hallway or sleeping area. If the alarm does go off and you're feeling sick (flu-like symptoms), get immediately out of the house and call the fire department or your fuel company. If the alarm sounds and you don't feel ill, shut off the possible sources of CO and ventilate the house as quickly as possible.



Letter to the editor: A testament to caring

My best friend Diane Garcia died peacefully Oct. 29, after a courageous one-year battle with colon cancer. Diane spent much of the past year here at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), either as an inpatient or an outpatient going through experimental drugs at the Drug Development Unit.

She loved life to the last minute and everyone in it. Throughout Diane's hospital stays and coming in to the DDU, she would always tell me how wonderful BAMC was and how lucky she was to be treated here. She said she always felt so warm and cozy because of the way that she was treated, as if she were the only patient here.

While she was an inpatient, and getting experimental drugs for her cancer, she asked me what she could do to thank these people from BAMC who made her

feel so special. I told her about the CARES Awards and the You Make a Difference Awards. She asked me what she needed to do to submit them for these awards. A few weeks before her death, she made me promise that I would let the command know how special these people were to her, how much courage they each gave her in their own special way.

Norma Guerra



Diane Garcia's photo holds a prominent place in memorial during the CARES Award presentation.

More bragging rights for PT score above 290

- Spc. Oyeyemi Akinrefon
- 2nd Lt. Gabriella Andreani Fabroni
- Staff Sgt. William Barnes
- Maj. Frank Christopher
- Maj. Wilfredo Cordero
- Maj. Jack Davis
- Maj. Marshall Eidenberg
- 2nd Lt. Silvana French
- 1st Lt. Matthew Goulet
- Lt. Col. Linda Groetken
- Maj. Bonnie Hartstein
- Capt. Matthew Hepburn
- Capt. Linda Huffer
- Lt. Col. Carolyn Jolitz
- Maj. Maureen Koops
- Maj. Kenneth Leclerc
- Capt. Charlotte Lee

- Staff Sgt. Efrem Lowery
- Sgt. 1st Class James McClung
- Sgt. 1st Class Vidal Mireles
- 1st Lt. Jennifer Powers
- Maj. Michael Rensch
- Col. John Roscelli
- Capt. Kimberly Rybak
- 2nd Lt. Jill Schroeder
- Capt. Renee Siegmann
- Staff Sgt. William StClergy
- Maj. Charles Taylor
- Staff Sgt. Michael Untalan
- Spc. Juan VillegasCruz
- Sgt. 1st Class David Warren
- Capt. James Wayne
- Sgt. 1st Class Michael Weaver
- Sgt. Mohamed William

(Editor's note: Last issue of the BAMC Beat identified BAMC soldiers who exceeded a score of 290 points on their semi-annual Army Physical Fitness Test. These names are additional soldiers who met that high standard of fitness.)

Order of Military Medical Merit

Established in 1982, the Order recognizes excellence and promotes good fellowship and esprit among Army Medical Department personnel. Only members of the Order can nominate others for membership under the criteria of talent, effort, and spirit in making significant, exemplary contributions to the United States Army Medical Department over a sustained period of time.

Membership in the Order is limited to AMEDD officers, noncommissioned officer, civilians, and retirees. Since the Order's inception, more than 5,500 individuals have been brought into the elite membership

Fifteen BAMC officers and NCOs joined the prestigious ranks of the Order of Military Medical Merit in solemn ceremony during the BAMC holiday ball.

- Col. Paul Morton
- Col. Wendall Bauman
- Col. Janis Hofman
- Col. Judith Minderler
- Lt. Col. Ann Richardson

- Maj. Matthew Garber
- Maj. Christopher Waring
- Maj. Michael Ryder
- Sgt. Maj. William Burger
- Master Sgt. Eathel Majette

- Master Sgt. Anthony L. Davis
- Master Sgt. Anthony Davis
- Master Sgt. Juan Amaya
- Sgt. 1st Class Mark Kenyon
- Sgt. 1st Class (retired) Vicky Cruz

Making their mark

Work force awards and achievements reflect outstanding performance and commitment



The entire staff of Ward 7 East (not all present for photo) with BAMC Commander You Make A Difference Group Award



Ben and Anna Buckner You Make a Difference Award



McWethy Troop Clinic, Telephone Triage Nurses CARES Group Award



Col. Kevin Hall CARES Award



Maj. Garry Schwartz CARES Award



Drug Development Unit CARES Group Award



Contract ambulance technicians help unload simulated patients for triage, from a post-wide mass casualty exercise. The scenario involved a helicopter crashing into a delivery truck carrying chemicals. BAMC personnel went through the steps of emergency and critical care, admitting more than a dozen simulated patients and dealing with the concerns of their family members.



BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini congratulates Lou Cottrell after installation as president of the BAMC Retiree Activities Group (BRAG).

What would you like to see the new year bring to BAMC?

“...More resources to serve more beneficiaries -- We owe it to them.”

Col. Robert Hall

Maj. Jack Davis

“... An improved phone system for better patient access.”

“... Better patient information and assistance to eliminate unnecessary and exhausting rerouting all over the hospital.”

Vanessa Thomas

Spc. Robert Garcia

“... Continued momentum and more consistency in recognizing workers' achievements, from one supervisor to the next.”

**Auditions for “The Cemetery Club” at
Harelquin Theatre, Feb. 25 and 26**

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre at Fort Sam Houston will hold open auditions on Feb. 25 and 26 for “The Cemetery Club,” a comedy by Ivan Menchell. Auditions will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. both nights with Bruce E. Shirky directing. To audition, use Walters Street gate entrance to Fort Sam Houston.

Three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband’s graves. Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life, Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun, and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene. He meets the widows while visiting his wife’s grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida. They are guilt-stricken this nearly breaks Ida’s heart.

There are roles for 1 man and 5 women. Other volunteers are needed as light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Performances will be Wednesday through Saturday evenings from April 3rd through May 4th. For more information call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at (210) 222-9694.

**“Something’s Afoot”
coming to the
Harlequin Dinner
Theatre**



The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is featuring “Something’s Afoot,” a musical by James McDonald, David Vos and Robert Gerlach, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 20 through March 23.

Ten people are stranded in an isolated English country house during a raging thunderstorm, in a zany, entertaining show that takes a satirical poke at Agatha Christie mysteries and musical styles of past years. One by one, they are picked-off by cleverly fiendish devices. As the bodies pile up in the library, the survivors frantically race to uncover the identity and motive of the cunning culprit. It is both a spoof and a tribute to Agatha Christie.

Cost is \$26.95 Friday and Saturday, and \$23.95 on Wednesday and Thursday, however, discounts for military personnel are available. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday evenings with cocktails and salad bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner from 6:30 to 7:30 and curtain time at 8 p.m. Make reservations by calling 222-9694 or come to the theatre in advance. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. The theatre is handicapped accessible.

**NAF Outlet
Friday, January 25, 2002
Building 1157 (Former Auto Skills
Center)**

**Sale starts at 10 a.m.,
View items from 9 to 9:30 a.m.**

Items include: Vehicles, boats, lawn
mowers, industrial refrigerators
& freezers, deep fat fryers,
commercial kilns with
accessories, chairs, tables,
lamps, pictures, silk
screen equipment &
supplies and a large
variety of tools and
automotive shop
equipment.....plus
numerous other items.

**Point of
Contact:
Capt. James
Rumbley,
536-8059**



Sports Shorts

Athletic and Recreation Council – will hold the next meeting Jan. 24 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center.

Men's and Women's Varsity Softball Tryouts - Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Rain date will be Feb. 4. Men still practice at Leadership Field and women at Lady Leadership Field.

Fort Sam Houston Intramural Racquet Ball - Letters of Intent due Feb. 4. Coaches meeting will be held on Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. League starts Feb. 19.

Intramural Volleyball - Letters of Intent due Feb. 4. Coaches meeting will be held Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season starts Feb. 11.

Intramural Spring Flag Football - Letters of Intent due Feb. 11. Coaches meeting will be held on Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. League starts Feb. 25.

Intramural Spring Softball - Letters of Intent due March 15. Coaches meeting will be held on March 25 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. League starts April

8. For more information the above sports please contact Earl Young at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 221-1180 or e-mail him at Earl.Young@cen.amedd.army.mil.

Aerobics Classes are offered at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center every Monday – Saturday. Classes include: Water Fitness, Senior Fitness, Salsa Plus, Kick-Box Boot Camp, Power Pump, Cardio Step, Kick/Step Combo, Step I, Low Impact Step and Body Sculpture & Abs. Classes are \$2 each or \$24 for 16. Call 221-1234 or stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center for a complete schedule.

Camp Bullis 3-D Archery Shoot - Year 2002 Archery Schedule is out. This activity will begin Jan. 26-27 and continues till September. The cost is \$10. For more information, please call Andy Keith at Camp Bullis at 295-7577.

For more information on the above sports contact Earl Young at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 221-1180 or e-mail him at earl.young@cen.amedd.army.mil.

Fort Sam clobbers Trinity University 62-57

By Margaret McKenzie
Special to News Leader

Fort Sam Houston women's basketball team clobbered Trinity University JV team 62-57. After trailing in the first half by a score of 31-30. The Fort Sam Houston women came out very aggressively shooting the ball against Trinity. With Jackie Malone leading with 35 points, the Fort Sam Houston women jumped out to a fourteen-point lead and never looked back.

Trinity women made a valiant attempt to cut the margin towards the end of the game but the Fort Sam Houston women held on for the victory. The Trinity team, was led by Kathy McVeym, who scored 18 points and Christie Moore with 16 points.

Area golf club offers discounts to military

The Golf Club of Texas at Briggs Ranch, extends their appreciation to the military men and women who serve or have served our country by offering green fees, cart and range balls for \$29.95 and a 15 percent discount from the restaurant on food and beverages excluding alcohol.


To set up a tee time call 677-0027. Special rates are subject to availability and valid only with Military ID card. The Golf Club of Texas is located at the corner of Highway 90 and Highway 211 North. From 410 or 1604 take Highway 90 west to Highway 211, then take 211 north and look for the entrance on the right.

Inaugural Washington D.C. Marathon runners sought

Runners planning on entering the Inaugural Washington DC Marathon, please contact Lorna Lewis at 916-3344 or 241-7385 for information on a special reduced rate obtained for this event. The race will be held on March 24 in our Nation's capital. Local military and civilian runners are combining to coordinate training, transportation and housing for this event. For more information, please email lornae@aol.com or lorna.lewis@cen.amedd.army.mil

Career Clips

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP office, Bldg. 2264 or call 221-1213.

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- Sheetmetal Mechanic** - San Antonio. Performs a wide variety of more complicated assembly line sheetmetal assembly and installation operations. Install mechanical, electrical, avionics systems and interior components of an aircraft. Will perform other related duties.
 - Document Production Specialist** - San Antonio. Requires strong administrative skills, excellent communication and organizational skills and proficiency in MSWord, Excel and Powerpoint.
 - Payroll Clerk** - San Antonio. Requires Data entry and ten key skills at 10,00kph, one-year experience in a payroll data entry capacity and basic PC proficiency to include MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.
 - Trailer Mechanic** - San Antonio. Successful candidate must possess general maintenance skills, as well as experience with trailer/service/fleet repairs. Minor welding, floor/door brake repair and at least one-year hands-on truck trailer repair also needed.

Fort Freebies

All Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended solely for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail it to: news.leader@amedd.army.mil or fax it to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request.



- For Sale:** Wellington Racer Roadmaster 10-speed 26” bicycle. Call 491-4177.

For Sale: House for sale, 4203 Misty Springs, Sunrise Subdivision, 1,500 square feet, fenced yard, 10 minutes form Fort Sam Houston and Brooks Air Force Base, \$70,000 obo. Call 661-2447 or 916-5379.

For Sale: Leather grey sectional sofa, very
- large and comfortable, \$1500. Call 408-6458.

For Sale: Twin size mattress, box spring and frame, \$65. Call 495-2296.

For Sale: Sony cell phone with case and charger, \$35.I Sprint PCS cell phone with case and charger, \$45. Call 526-0409.



Lucy Starr, a Thrift Shop volunteer for many years, helps a customer at the Post Thrift Shop on Jan. 12. The public is invited to visit the shop on Wednesday and Thursday and on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 225-4682.

Fort Sam Thrift Shop now taking applications for welfare requests

It’s that time of the year again. The Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop is now taking applications for welfare request. Applications may be picked up at the Thrift Shop during regular business hours, which are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Thrift Shop is located in Building 232 on Liscum Road (behind the quadrangle).

Those organizations making request must Request Application form. The deadline for applications is Thursday, March 21, 2002. Applications can be brought to the Thrift Shop and given to Peggy Riley or Teresa Parker. They can also be mailed to the Thrift Shop, 2241 Liscum Road, Suite 31, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5031.

All applications must be in the Thrift Shop Chairman’s possession no later than close of business March 21, 2002.



(From left to right) representing America and the U.S. Army and National Guard are Andrea Nahrgang, Vermont Guard, Jeremy Teela from Alaska, Minnesota citizen-soldier Kara Salmela, Vermont Army Guardsman Lawton Redman and Kristina Sabasteanski also from the Vermont Guard.

Guard biathletes qualify for Olympics

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
Special to the News Leader

Army National Guard soldiers, including two veterans of the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, will dominate the United States biathlon team competing in the XIX Winter Olympics in February.

Guard soldiers are holding five of the eight positions on the men and women's biathlon teams, and two other Guard soldiers are alternates. The guardsmen - two men and three women — secured positions on the team when the four-day trials ended near Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 3. The United States will send teams of four men and four women into the Olympic hunt.

The biathlon competition combines the aerobic sport of cross-country skiing with the precision of riflery, officials said. Biathlon itself is derived from a Greek word for two contests. The sport was developed first as a means for hunting, then developed for defending one's borders by the Norwegian military.

Vermont Army Guardsmen Lawton Redman, who won two of the Verizon Championship Series' four races, and Jeremy Teela from Alaska will be teamed with civilians Jay Hakkinen from Alaska and Dan Campbell from Minnesota on the men's team.

Minnesota citizen-soldiers Kara Salmela and Andrea Nahrgang, along with Kristina Sabasteanski from the Vermont Guard will join civilian Rachel Steer from Alaska, the top-ranked U.S. woman biathlete for the past three years, on the women's team.

Salmela and Sabasteanski are the Guard's Olympic veterans along with Hakkinen, who also competed in Nagano four winters ago. Redman, Teela, Nahrgang and Sabasteanski are members of the Army's World Class Athlete Program and compete for the U.S. national team. Salmela races for the All-National Guard biathlon team.

This year they will compete on the same Soldier Hollow course outside Heber City where the trials were held and where local legend says that U.S. cavalry troops camped in the shadows of the Wasatch Mountains while serving outside Salt Lake City in the late 1850s.

"Representing your country as a soldier and an athlete is twice the honor," said Salmela after the three Guard members representing Vermont and two from Minnesota earned their distinctions as Olympic athletes on the same ground.

Sabasteanski locked up her spot on the final dramatic day, almost beating Minnesota Guard member Jill Krause. The hard-charging Krause won that race, and the national championship, in 23 minutes, 39.7 seconds, even though she had to ski three 150-meter penalty loops after missing three of her 10 targets. Sabasteanski finished third, 32.4 seconds behind Krause, after missing two targets.

But that was good enough to give Sabasteanski the fourth spot on the Olympic women's team based on her four-race performance.

"I wanted to die at the finish," said the exhausted

Sabasteanski, who is 32. "I left everything I had out on the course."

"She's that kind of athlete when the pressure is on," praised Salmela. "I saw her do the same thing in 1998, when she had to win by nearly a minute on the final day to make the team."

Krause will be one of two alternates for the women's team, and Vermont Army Guardsman Dan Westover will be one of the men's alternates. The 25-year-old Redman dominated the men's trials during his second year on the national team. He won the 20-kilometer race Dec. 29, the first day of the trials, and capped off the week by winning the 10-kilometer sprint in 26 minutes, 50.5 seconds, after missing just one of 10 targets.

"I had two great races and two mediocre races," said Redman, who moved from Vermont to Heber City in the fall of 2000 to train for the Salt Lake City Games. Making the team was harder than he had expected. strong early in the year came together and did really well in the trials," Redman observed. "No one knew what was going to happen until we raced today. This was a real fight."

Victories in the men and women's sprints Dec. 30 helped Teela and Nahrgang lock up their first Olympic team berths. Salmela iced her spot by winning the women's 10-kilometer pursuit race on Jan. 2, following a two-day break in the trials.

"I believed last August that I could make the team if I could just hold it together in the trials," Salmela said.

The team members and coaches will continue to size up the international competitors they will face in February during two World Cup biathlons in Germany this month. Although this is considered the fastest team the United States has ever sent to the Olympics, Germany, Norway and Russia are considered the class of that field.

Salmela believes she and her teammates will perform considerably better than in the past, especially before huge home crowds. A reported 14,000, for example, have already paid \$25 and \$50 to watch the pursuit races, the most popular biathlon events.

Teela finished ninth in the 2001 world sprint championships last February in Slovenia.

"I'm much more experienced this year," said Salmela, who had been a biathlete for just three years before finishing 56th at Nagano four years ago. "It shouldn't be hard to improve on that."

Living near Soldier Hollow — and staying away from Salt Lake City — during the Games will help keep the biathletes focused, predicted Nahrgang.

"We'd rather have good results," she said, "than the overall Olympic experience."

(Editor's note: Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is a member of the National Guard Bureau public affairs team.)

Sports programs provide opportunity

Army Sports programs provide soldiers an opportunity to participate in a full range of individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on mass participation at the intramural level - with instruction, practice, and competition planned on all skill levels, starting with the beginner.

Through interesting, challenging, and enjoyable individual and team sports, Army Sports programs enhance group morale and the development of a high state of mental and physical well being; assists in the development of the vital assets of teamwork and the will to win, confidence, and aggressiveness; and compliments the required unit physical training program.

Army personnel eligible for participation in sports programs

Army personnel, including National Guard and Reserve Component soldiers, active duty, are eligible (with their commander's concurrence) to participate in the Army's Departmental Sports Program. This program, conducted by the Army's Community and Family Support Center, provides an opportunity for soldiers to train and compete at the highest level their personal athletic skills allow.

The program begins with a soldier making an application, in accordance with AR 215-1, and if accepted, the soldier attends an Army Trial Camp which leads directly to Armed Forces, national and international sports competitions, to include International military competition in the Conseil Internationale du Sport Militaire (CISM), as well as the Pan American and Olympic Games.

The Army currently conducts trial camps and championships in the following sports; basketball, (men and women), bowling (men and women), boxing, golf (men and women), racquetball (men and women), soccer, softball (men and women), taekwondo (men and women), tennis (men and women), track and field (men and women), volleyball (men and women) and wrestling.

Source: Army Sports web page.



Community events

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre presents "Towards Zero," now through Feb. 9

The Agatha Christie mystery "Towards Zero" is being presented now through Feb. 9 at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Bldg. 2652 Harney Road, Fort Sam Houston. For ticket information and reservations, call 222-9694.

Volunteer Advisory Council meeting, Jan. 28

Volunteer Advisory Council Meeting, Jan. 28, 10 -11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center. Point of contact is Kim Miller, 221-2705.

Technology Expo at Officers' Club, Jan. 31

The Fort Sam Houston Technology Expo will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Persian Room at the Officers' Club. The no-cost Expo is open to all Fort Sam Houston personnel and contractors. There will be more than 20 different industry leading manufacturers, developers and systems integrators exhibiting the latest in Knowledge Management Solutions, Data Warehousing, Network Operations Services, Web and Enterprise Content Management, Information Assurance and Security, Mobile Computing Solutions, Wireless Networking/Computing, Collaboration Tools, Hardware, Software and More. The Expo is hosted by Information Technology Business Center for more information call (301) 596-8899 extension 230.

Commissary/PX Advisory Council meeting

The installation Commissary/PX Advisory Council meeting will be held Feb. 13 in the Break Room, Commissary, Bldg. 360. Submit input for the agenda no later than Jan. 28. For information, call Thomas Lara 221-5891 or Barbara King at 221-5115.

Annual MOPH, Chapter 1836 dinner, Feb. 15

The annual Founder's Day and General Washington Birthday Dinner for members of Chapter 1836, Military Order of the Purple Heart, will be held Feb. 15, 6 to 10 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Officer's Club.

The guest speaker will be retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner, a noted author, Korean War and Vietnam veteran, and Purple Heart medal recipient. For reservations and more details, call Col. Garland (Pete) Bishop, 497-3029.

18th Annual Diploma Dash/City Championship 5K Run

The University of Texas at San Antonio Alumni Association will host the 18th Annual Diploma Dash/City Championship 5K Run and Fitness Walk on Feb. 23 at the UTSA Convocation Center. For information, call 458-4133 or visit their web site www.utsa.edu/alumi.

Volunteers needed

Calling all single soldiers to join BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee is established at an installation to furnish soldier input to the commander, who uses committee recommendations as the basis for improving single soldier MWR programs and enhancing the quality of life.

All single soldiers are welcome to attend the first meeting of the month. The second meeting is reserved for duty appointed representatives. For more information, please contact the current BOSS president Spc. Jeffrey Briere at 637-2229 or Sgt. Lorna Lewis 916-3344.

¿Que Pasa?

American Red Cross volunteers needed

The American people rely on the American Red Cross and its Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) to stay in touch with those in the serving in the military. The San Antonio Red Cross is meeting the challenge of increased AFES cases by training volunteers to help with emergency communications between military personnel and their families. The commitment for a volunteer is a minimum of four hours per week for the next six months. For information about classes in AFES case work, call 224-5151 extension 273.

More Child Advocates volunteers needed

Child Advocates San Antonio is looking for volunteers to train as advocates for abused children. Training classes begin Feb. 26. Deadline to register is Feb. 15. For information, call 22-7070.

Training will be held at the CASA office, 406 San Pedro, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 23, and 28 and Feb. 6. Applicants must be 21 years or older, pass a background and reference check and be interviewed by a CASA advocate supervisor. CASA, a United Way agency, served 645 abused children in Bexar County last year.

Basketball stars sought for summer camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp 2002. The camp is for boys and girls ages 10 through 19. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter and more. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. The Camp is by invitation only. For a free brochure, call (704) 568-6801.

Runners sought for Washington D.C. Marathon

Runners interested in joining a group to train for and to run the Inaugural Washington D.C. Marathon scheduled for March 24 should contact Sgt. Lorna Lewis via e-mail lorna.lewis@cen.amedd.army.mil or call 916-3344 or 930-4426.

AACOG seeks volunteers to aid the elderly

Alamo Area Council of Governments Bexar Area Agency on Aging is seeking volunteers to become a Volunteer Ombudsman. A Volunteer Ombudsman is an advocate for residents in Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities. They act as a confidential voice for residents and reinforce the importance of residents' rights. Two hours a week can make a big difference in the lives of the elderly of San Antonio. Call the Alamo Area Council of Governments at 362-5200 or visit the AACOG web site at www.aacog.com for more information.

In the classroom

Job skills training for family members

Family Member Employment Assistance provides resume and job search assistance with one-on-one counseling tailored to the needs of the individual. Training is computer and video-based allowing individuals to learn at their own pace. For an appointment, call Pat Fory at 221-0516. Openings exist for morning and afternoon training sessions.

Learn more about benefits

Soldiers whose Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS) is on or after August 1, 1986, should attend a briefing on the Career Status Bonus, Reduced Retirement Plan and Thrift Savings Plan.

Transition Services offers monthly briefings in Bldg. 2267 at 9 a.m. on the following dates: Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr 16, May 14, June 11, July 16, Aug. 13 and Sept. 17, 2002.

To attend a briefing or obtain more information, call 221-2467 or 221-0936.

Soldiers have an opportunity to enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan. The plan allows soldiers to invest their own money and offers tax deferral advantages similar to those in a 401(K). TSP participation is voluntary

and not automatic.

Open season for those soldiers currently on active duty and who meet eligibility requirements is now through January 31, 2002. Call 1-877-276-9287 for information.

English as a Second Language classes

ESL classes are held on Fort Sam Houston at the Roadrunner Community Center and are free. They are designed especially for foreign-born spouses to increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Classes are appropriate for beginner, intermediate and advanced students with individualized group instruction. Classes are sponsored by the Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program, and the Region 20 Education Center. To register call 221-2418.

Breast Health Awareness Class, Jan 25

A class to address breast health will be held Jan. 25 at 11 a.m. in the Health Promotion Center. Topics addressed will include breast cancer risks, breast self-examination, diet and exercise, hormone replacement therapy. To register, call 916-3352.

Otras Cosas

Visit Child and Youth Services library

The Fort Sam Houston community is invited to visit the Child and Youth Services Community Resource Library located in Bldg. 2797. The library has an array of educational and developmentally age appropriate resource materials for loan. Home schooling parents in the community are encouraged to utilize our library. For additional information call Judith Williford at 221-9658.

National Softball Association Umpire Clinic, Feb 2

The National Softball Association will conduct an Umpire Clinic on Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 135 and Splashtown. The clinic will certify umpires to participate in NSA sanctioned events. For more information contact the Texas Umpire-in-Chief at 874-4604.

Apply for a TROA scholarship

Military children of active duty service members are eligible to apply for The Retired Officers Association Scholarship program. Students must be under age 24 and working their first undergraduate degree. Grants are based on scholastic merit and leadership qualities, not financial need. To apply visit the web site: www.troa.org, look for "Educational Aid" on the opening page of the TROA web site. Deadline for submission is midnight of March 1, 2002.

Join the Teen Book Club

The Oakwell Library is starting a Teen Book Club, open to Middle and High School students. The first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. To register, call 828-2569. The library is located at 4134 Harry Wurzbach.

Vehicle Registration notice

Due to temporary unavailability of DoD registration stickers, priority for issue of vehicle registration stickers will be for active duty military and civilian employees. Provost Marshal anticipates issue of more registration stickers in late January and will announce when stickers are available for open registration.

General Meyerrose to speak

Maj. Gen. Dale W. Meyerrose, director of command control systems at Headquarters, U.S. Space Command and North American Aerospace Defense command, will speak at a joint professional luncheon of the Alamo Chapter-AFCEA and the Billy Mitchell Chapter-AOC Feb. 6, at 11 a.m., Randolph Air Force Base Officers Club.

To register for the luncheon and provide menu choice at the AFCEA web site www.alamoafcea.org "Event Registration." Cost is \$15 per person. Seating is limited.